



Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Three British soldiers die in Cyprus crash

NICOSIA (R) — Three British soldiers were killed in Cyprus Sunday when their car collided with a truck, a British army spokesman said. He declined to name them until families had been informed. "I can confirm three soldiers died as a result of a road traffic accident," British bases spokesman Mervyn Wynne Jones said. The accident happened at 12.45 p.m. local time (0945 GMT) on a busy road between the British base of Dhekelia and the resort town of Ayia Napa in south eastern Cyprus. Witnesses said the soldiers' car collided with a truck coming in the opposite direction and ended up in a field, trapping all three. There are around 3,700 British military personnel serving at two bases in Cyprus.

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U.N.'s Annan condemns Turkey's Iraq incursion

MOSCOW (AFP) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned Saturday the Turkish army's incursion into northern Iraq, and called on Ankara to pull its troops out. "As secretary general of the United Nations, I cannot condone any transgression of the territorial integrity of any country, and I would encourage the Turkish army to withdraw as soon as possible," Mr. Annan told reporters during his visit to Moscow. Turkey has been carrying out a large-scale offensive involving around 10,000 troops against separatists of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which it alleges is using northern Iraq as a rear base from which to launch attacks in Turkish territory. Turkish forces reported that they had killed more than 900 Kurdish separatists since the operation began four days ago.

Israeli warplanes attack Hizbollah positions

RASHAYA (AFP) — Israeli warplanes staged a raid on positions of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrilla movement in southern Lebanon Sunday. Lebanese police said there were no immediate reports of casualties in the attack. Two Phantom fighter-bombers fired two air-to-ground missiles at a Hizbollah position near the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in southern Lebanon, police said. Israeli warplanes mounted two raids on Hizbollah bases in southern Lebanon Saturday. The raids followed an upsurge in fighting in the region this week which has left three Israeli soldiers and two Hizbollah fighters dead. The Hizbollah spearheaded a guerrilla war to force Israel to withdraw from territories occupied in 1985. So far this year 15 Hizbollah militants and nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in the clashes in South Lebanon.

Trial of jailed British nurses begins Monday

RIYADH (AP) — The trial of two British nurses charged with murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia will begin Monday, their lawyer said. Salah Hejailan, who is representing Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, said the trial will open with a preliminary hearing. It was not clear whether the two nurses would attend. Deborah Parry, 41, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, face the death penalty if convicted of the murder of 55-year-old Yvonne Gilford. Her body was found Dec. 11 in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in the eastern Saudi town of Dhahran, where the three nurses worked. Saudi authorities said Gilford had been stabbed four times, beaten and suffocated. Parry and McLauchlan confessed to the murder, but the defence team said they did so only because they were told it would mean they would not face prosecution and could go home. The two aspects later withdrew their confessions, their lawyers said.

Journalists, opposition parties in uproar over new Press and Publications Law

JPA council members but for one resign; editors of weeklies plan to file case at Higher Court of Justice

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Journalists and editors began closing ranks yesterday to confront severe amendments introduced Saturday night to the 1993 Press and Publications Law and appeared to be gearing up for a mass protest bailing from both the daily and weekly press. The board of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), with the exception of JPA President Seif Sberif, submitted an immediate and collective resignation from the council Sunday morning in protest of the amendments, expected to severely hinder the progression of free press in the country.

In a written statement to the JPA General Assembly, the council members stated that they were announcing their "immediate resignation from the council in protest of the new amended law of the 1993 Law No. 10 of Press and Publications, owing to the fact that the amendments were brought into force by a temporary law in spite of the existence of a Lower House still in office and because the spirit of the law abolishes all press freedoms for journalists."

The resignees called for a general demonstration this morning in front of the JPA headquarters in Jabal Amman. The new temporary law, the third introduced under a government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, has created an uproar among the press for extending the list of issues forbidden to be reported in the press, levying fines from JD15,000-JD25,000 for

violations of the laws articles and giving the courts the right to suspend publication of any paper found in violation of the law.

The suspension of publication can only be revoked by the authorisation of the minister of information after the paper settles its fine.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi, meanwhile, defended the government's position in a televised interview and said that the amendments were necessary because "some of the papers tried to disrupt the national fabric and harm Jordan's relations with Arab countries."

"The parliament has, many times, called for the amendment of the Press and Publications Law," he said. "Therefore, we found ourselves committed to saving the country's national fabric and took this decision."

Dr. Mutawi said that the amendments increased the ceiling of freedoms. For example, he said, "the new law abolishes the imprisonment penalty, no matter the offence and only imposes financial penalties."

However, members of the press corps see it differently. Although the amendments abolish the clause for imprisonment in cases which journalists or editors are found to have accepted gifts (Article 44), another clause negates the cancellation.

Article 50-2C of the law reads that "if the violation is seen to constitute a crime under the provisions of any other law, the offender shall

(Continued on page 12)



The editors of weekly newspapers pledge to mobilise public opinion against the new Press and Publications Law at a meeting held at the Engineer's Association on Sunday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Islamists react

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), the country's leading opposition party, and the Muslim Brotherhood Sunday issued strong statements opposing the introduction of new amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law and expressed their solidarity with journalists in pursuing immediate action to see its abolishment.

The IAF called the introduction of the temporary press, elections and securities laws an "assassination of the role of the Lower House of Parliament" and a "blow to democracy."

The Parliament, it said, still enjoys its constitutional right to call meetings to discuss laws and monitor government performance. "These laws are unconstitutional and do not meet the prime minister's promise to parliamentarians that no new temporary laws would be introduced until after discussion with Parliament."

The statement continued that the introduction of the temporary laws — which also include an elections law and a securities law — were in contradiction of all previous gov-

ernment commitments, since 1989, to not issue temporary laws.

The IAF is demanding a cancellation of all temporary laws and an extraordinary Lower House session "in order to discuss the dangerous issues that threaten Jordan's water, economy, security, freedom and dignity."

The Muslim Brotherhood, meanwhile, said that the press "trespasses on public morality, national unity and other national interests could be dealt with through the old law, or through a special law, without having to suffocate the press or expropriate its freedom."

"Jordan has always been proud of being more advanced in freedoms, political stability and social security than many of the Arab countries," the statement said. "But the Jordanian example is getting closer to the Arab example."

"We feel a dangerous setback in the creation of one party to govern and establish a press that has one colour, and the creation of parliament that do not represent the direction or aspirations of the people."

Majali, Erekat review results of Ross's visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday reiterated Jordan's firm support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with Saeb Erekat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Dr. Majali underlined the importance for the Palestinians to pursue the dialogue with Israel saying that dialogue remains the most effective means for ending the present deadlock in the peace negotiations.

Dr. Majali who was speaking in the presence of Omar Khatib, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, also underlined the need for Jordan and the PNA to facilitate the flow of trade between the two in the interest of the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

Dr. Erekat briefed the prime minister on the out-

come of the Israeli-Palestinian talks held recently in conjunction with the U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross which centred mostly on Jerusalem, the Jewish settlements and the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank.

Emerging from the meeting at the Prime Ministry, Dr. Erekat said that there was need for inter-Arab coordination on all fronts in order to salvage the peace process.

He warned that Israel's current settlement policies coupled with the confiscation of Arab land was bound to cause U.S. mediation efforts to collapse.

Warning that the world should realise that continued Israeli practices will expose the whole region to serious danger, Dr. Erekat called for international efforts to force Israel to implement the accords concluded with the Palestinian leaders.

32 massacred in Algerian village

ALGIERS (AFP) — A total of 32 people died in a massacre on an isolated collective farm southwest of Algiers, newspapers said Sunday, giving a new toll for the mass killing. Original reports said that 30 people died when a gang of armed militants stormed into the Haouche Faner

farm near the village of Chebli Wednesday night, knifing to death and burning alive residents. A man, a woman and two children remain missing. One elderly man fired at the attackers, apparently killing one of them and wounding others, the press quoted witnesses as saying.

Algeria's parliament dissolved ahead of elections in 2 weeks

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual officially dissolved his country's transitional parliament Sunday, two weeks ahead of legislative elections here.

The June 5 poll will be the North African nation's first general election since the start of the five-year violent confrontation between militants and the authorities which has killed an estimated 60,000 people.

State radio said Mr. Zeroual included in his farewell speech to the current National Assembly a promise to the deputies present, and to the "martyrs of duty" — the deputies killed by alleged extremists.

He also called on Algerians to vote in the poll and repeated his promise to "respect the choice of the people," the radio added.

The outgoing National Assembly, or National Transition Council, was created in May 1994, replacing the National Consultative Council installed by President Mohamed Boudiaf, who was assassinated in June 1992.

A U.N. official in Algiers, Francisco Cobos, said Saturday some 90 U.N. observers will be on hand in the country for the elections.

Other observers are expected from the Arab League — perhaps as many as 60 or so — and the Organisation for African Union.

Mr. Zeroual's government, keen for the elections to be seen as a victo-

ry over extremism, said at the end of April that it expected at least 200 international observers.

A total of 44 parties are fielding 7,747 candidates who will contest 380 seats in the new National Assembly. The campaign officially started Thursday and ends on June 2, with most political parties taking part.

The now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which has urged its supporters to boycott the poll, won almost half the votes in the first round of the last elections for the National Assembly in December 1991, before the military stepped in and blocked the second and final ballot.

The party was then banned by the courts in March 1992, as a ruthless war — marked by massacres and car bombings — took root, pitting the government against extremists, particularly the Armed Islamic Group.

Hours before campaigning began Thursday, 32 people — mostly women and children — were massacred at an isolated farm in Chebli, southwest of the capital Algiers. Some were shot, while others had their throats slit.

The main contesting parties are the National Democratic Rally (RND), created three months ago to support Mr. Zeroual, the Movement for a Peaceful Society (MSP), the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) and the National Liberation Front (FLN).

Second Palestinian suspect of selling land to Israelis killed; Bashiti buried

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — A Palestinian known to have sold Arab land to Israelis has been found shot dead in the West Bank, the second in 10 days, Palestinian National Authority (PNA) security sources said Sunday.

The bullet-riddled body of Harbi Abu Sara, 60, was discovered late Saturday in the self-rule town of Ramallah, the sources told AFP.

A Palestinian real estate agent also known to have dealt with Israelis, 70-year-old Farid Bashiti, was discovered dead in Ramallah on May 9. He had several bullets in his neck and his hands were tied behind his back.

The first Palestinian land dealer found slain after he allegedly sold land to Jews was buried Sunday in a mountainous cemetery in the West Bank. The recent killing and Bashiti's burial highlight the extreme sensitivity of the land question in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Kreema Sabri, the chief Muslim cleric in Arab east Jerusalem, declared Bashiti an infidel for selling land to Jews and said he could not be buried in a Muslim cemetery in Arab east Jerusalem.

Bashiti's family said Israeli authorities pressured them to bury him in the city, refusing them permission to bury him instead in

Jaffa, south of Tel Aviv.

In the eod, the family decided to bury him in Nabi Musa, in the West Bank desert east of Jerusalem. The burial took place Sunday afternoon, with only the family present. An Israeli police van was parked at the entrance of the cemetery to guard them. An unlettered stone marked the grave. The burial was carried out so quickly that a shovel was left behind at the site.

"We did not bury him in Jerusalem to avoid bloodshed," said Asem Bashiti, his nephew. "We have trusted peacefully. God have mercy on him."

"The problem is over," Mr. Sabri said. "We bless God for ending the crisis."

Bashiti's son, however, insisted that his father had never sold land to Israelis and blamed Mr. Sabri for destroying the family's honour.

"There are two killers — the one who actually killed him and the one who killed the family," he said bitterly. "He did not sell to Jews."

Israeli authorities suspect the Palestinian security services of involvement in the execution-style murder of Bashiti and have arrested a Palestinian policeman and an east Jerusalem woman.

Earlier this month Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Meddein said the sale of land in the West Bank and Arab east

Jerusalem to Israelis would be punished by execution and the Palestinian Legislative Council is considering legislation on the issue.

Palestinians consider such sales treason because they involve handing land which could be part of a Palestinian future state over to Israel.

Palestinian human rights activist Bassem Edl blamed the PNA for the killings and said more were likely.

"I don't believe the Palestinian (National) Authority will ever legislate to punish these land agents but right now it has transferred the problem to its security forces so that they directly handle the issue," he said.

The United States has called on Palestinian leaders to condemn the death threats.

"I think it's very important that Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian (National) Authority officials involved emphasize that the rule of law must apply in territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

But Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said that neither the United States nor Israel have the right to intervene.

"We are not looking to kill, but the sale of (Palestinian lands to Israelis) is a terrorist act against the Palestinian people," Mr. Kanafani said.

Israel says Hizbollah may have Stinger missiles

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's air force is on guard against the possibility that Islamic Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon possess shoulder-fired stinger anti-aircraft missiles, a former air force chief said Sunday.

"We've had such reports for quite a long time. The air force has taken into account for several years that they have these missiles," said retired Major-

General Avihu Bin-Nun, a former air force chief. Israeli aircraft frequently raided Lebanon where the Jewish state occupies a 15-kilometre zone to protect its northern border. Hizbollah (Party of God) militants are waging a guerrilla war to oust Israeli troops from the area.

"We estimate that Hizbollah has these missiles but we don't have an unequivocal indication," a security source told Reuters.

Mr. Bin-Nun said the U.S.-made stinger, among the world's most sophisticated lightweight anti-aircraft weapons, may have come from Afghanistan — where guerrillas used them against former Soviet occupiers — to Lebanon via Iran.

"I know of no use they made of this missile but

there's no doubt the moment they start using this missile it will endanger our aircraft," Mr. Bin-Nun told Israel Radio.

Israeli planes attacked Hizbollah targets in southern Lebanon over the weekend after Hizbollah guerrillas killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded seven in an ambush Thursday. Anti-aircraft missiles were fired at Israeli helicopters that

evacuated the soldiers after Thursday's clash but top army officers said they were launched by the Lebanon army and not Hizbollah.

"The Lebanon army alone fired anti-aircraft missiles. Hizbollah fired shells and automatic weapons," said the head of the Israeli army's northern command Major-General Amiram Levine.

Top Hamas militant pleads guilty to 46 murder counts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A top Islamic guerrilla pleaded guilty in an Israeli military court Sunday to 46 counts of murder resulting from suicide bombings he plotted, his lawyer said.

Israel arrested Hassan Salameh of the militant Hamas group a year ago after a wave of Palestinian suicide attacks killed 59 people in the Jewish state, accusing him of masterminding three of the four bombings.

"After the charges were

read, he himself admitted guilt," Salameh's court-appointed lawyer, Jawad Bunus, told reporters after the hearing in the occupied West Bank.

Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group have killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings aimed at wrecking Israel-Palestinian National Authority (PNA) peace deals which have given Palestinians limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Salameh could face the

death penalty, a sentence carried out only once in the country's history. He is more likely to get multiple life terms in line with long-standing Israeli policy.

Last year's bombing spree erased a 20-point lead Israel's left-centre Labour government had in opinion polls before May elections. Hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ousted Labour in the ballot.

Arafat envoy visits Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP)

— An envoy of President Yasser Arafat travelled to Syria to seek an invitation for the president to visit Damascus and to meet hardline Palestinian groups based there, Palestinian sources said Sunday.

Abbas Zaki, who spent two days in Damascus last week, asked Palestinian opposition leaders to throw their weight behind a visit by the president but did not meet any Syrian officials, the sources said.

Mr. Arafat last visited Syria in July 1996 as Arab leaders tried to forge a united front against the newly-elected right-wing government in Israel.

But relations between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships remain frosty, with Damascus accusing Mr. Arafat of weakening the Arab negotiating position with Israel by breaking ranks to sign a separate peace accord.

Mr. Zaki, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council and the central committee of Arafat's Fateh group, also gave messages from the president to the leaders of the hardline Democratic Liberation Front for the Palestine (DFLP) and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a DFLP spokesman said.

The message concerned inter-Palestinian talks and the stalled peace process with Israel, the spokesman said.

Nayef Hawatmeh, the DFLP leader, said he was willing to take part in inter-Palestinian talks in an Arab capital and urged the suspension of peace negotiations with Israel.

Iraq says Arab leaders should learn lesson from the U.S. role in Zaire

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Sunday that Arab leaders should learn a lesson from the U.S. role in Zaire after the fall of President Mobutu Sese Seko, whom it claimed Washington abandoned after long years of loyal service.

Under the headline "Arab servants of the United States have you learned a

lesson?" the official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper said that "Washington dropped Mobutu and convinced France and Europe to do the same and support Laurent Desire Kabila, one of Mobutu's enemies."

"One lesson to draw is that the United States does not understand the meaning of loyalty and does

reward those who serve it, but uses them as pawns without feeling," the newspaper added.

"All those who serve the interests of Washington in spite of their own nation should understand that they have become American hostages and will be thrown into the fire once they lose their brilliance,"

it said.

The United States led the 1991 multinational coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait and has steadfastly supported the continuation of economic sanctions against Baghdad until it destroys all means of producing weapons of mass destruction.

Controversial Jerusalem street to be closed during prayer time on Sabbath

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jerusalem street that has come to stand for the culture clash between secular and religious Israelis will be closed during prayer times on the Sabbath and religious holidays, the transportation minister said Sunday.

Yitzhak Levy said the closing of Bar Ilan street will begin Friday night. The street runs through

an ultra-orthodox neighbourhood, but also links several secular neighbourhoods with the main western exit from Jerusalem. It has been the site of intense confrontation between religious residents and police this past year.

The religious want the street closed on the Jewish Sabbath, which lasts from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, and frequently shout "shabbos" (Sabbath) and hurl stones at cars that use the road during that time.

The Supreme Court ruled in April that the street must remain open on the Sabbath until an alternative route is found for secular residents.

Mr. Levy's decision to close the road during prayer hours excludes secular residents of the area, who will receive special stickers allowing them to travel by car, the ministry said.

Transportation Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said Mr. Levy conferred with both secular and religious residents before making his decision.

"We hope this will be the solution for the moment," he said.

Yemen's small Jewish community thrives on mixed traditions

RAYDA, Yemen (AFP) — High in the mountains of northern Yemen, a tiny community of Orthodox Jews is thriving on old traditions, contemptuous of the liberal habits of modern Israel.

In the village of Rayda, perched in a mountain valley 2,000 metres above sea level, polygamy is common and the women are veiled — a practice associated with strict Islamic societies.

"We are Orthodox Jews, very keen on our traditions. If we go to Israel, we will lose our bold over our daughters, our wives and our sisters," said Ya'ich Ya'ich, a 70-year-old rabbi.

"We observe the religion of Solomon to the letter, but they (the Israelis) don't. We are conservative Jews. We do not like the Israeli government, or democracy," he added.

The 60-strong community in Rayda, around 80 kilometres north of the Yemeni capital Sana'a, live isolated from the rest of the country's 500,000 Jews who have clustered in the Saada region further north.

A total of 43,000 Jews left Yemen for the Jewish state between June 1949 and June 1950 in an airlift dubbed "flying carpet," and although Yemen's current laws ban emigration to Israel all Yemenis are still free to leave the country.

Said Ya'ich, the rabbi's 25-year-old son, visited members of his family living in Israel but found life there alien to his way of life.

"There, life is good but people are different. That is why I preferred to come back to Yemen, my country," he said, puffing on a traditional hookah pipe.

"We are like Muslims, we do not allow our women to uncover their faces," said Mr. Said, one of the rabbi's four children.

The family spends most of its days in the small room that passes for the community's synagogue, reciting Torah, smoking hookahs and chewing qat leaves — a mild stimulant.

Halm Ya'ich, 40, the village carpenter, said: "The Jew can marry up to four wives at once."

He said that the Jewish community always inter-marries, which limits the choice of women, but added: "Thank God there are enough women."

Until the age of 10, the village's children are kept at home studying religion, the Hebrew language and arithmetic, although some learn Arabic at the local municipal school. Afterwards, many are sent to the United States to continue their studies.

Yemen's Jews can be distinguished from their countrymen by the curls hanging under their skullcaps, but the rest of their clothing follows Yemeni tradition — pieces of coloured cloth wrapped round their waists like a skirt and simple jackets.

However, they are not allowed to wear the covered tribal dagger, and they are also banned from enlisting in the army.

Ties between Israel and Yemen have warmed in recent years, although earlier this year the Yemeni government angrily rejected Israeli claims that the two countries were edging towards establishing formal relations.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Iryani last month also announced a ban on Israelis of Yemeni origin returning to the country for visits because of the souring of the Arab-Israeli peace process. He said there were around 500,000 Jews of Yemeni origin in the Jewish state.



This picture dated April 28 shows Jewish Yemeni brothers Yehya Yaakoub, Hayeem, and Siian (from left to right), standing with their children in front of their home in Beit Hira village, 100 kilometres south of Sana'a. This community of Orthodox Jews is thriving on old traditions, contemptuous of the liberal habits of modern Israel (AFP photo)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French cartoon
16:00 Documentary — The German scene
16:25 Deep Water Haven
16:50 The Ocean Girl
17:15 Documentary — Extra Dimensions
18:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — One Foot in the Grave
20:00 Secrets of Science
20:30 Murder She Wrote
21:10 Highlander
21:30 News in English
22:30 The Write Verdict
23:15 Mini Series — Cinder Path

PRAYER TIMES

04:02 Fajr
05:32 Sunrise Doha
12:32 Dhuhur
16:13 Asr
19:32 Maghreb
21:02 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637340.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771321.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church
Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 843457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise with relative warm weather conditions prevailing and winds southerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be warm, winds southerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 16/33
Aqaba 22/40
Deserts 15/35
Jordan Valley 18/38
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 39 Humidity
readings: Amman 26 per cent.
Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Afif Shukri 898863
Dr. Nidal Al Dabbeh 827195
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq 788285
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rafiq Atallah 994424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Dept. 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co. 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Alkhalid Maternity 642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 660701
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musheir Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Govt. Hospital 09198323
Zarqa National Hospital 091900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 091990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02775555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02772275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 021247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 031314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08153200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:15 Sana'a (RJ)
09:35 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:05 Beirut (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
22:45 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
23:10 Casablanca (RJ)
04:40 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

10:30 Cairo (MS)
14:50 Bahrain (GF)
15:05 Vienna (OS)
21:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:30 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:30 Athens (OA)
01:20 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:20 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Casablanca (RJ)
12:25 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:20 London (RJ)
13:35 Amsterdam, Frankfurt (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:05 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:40 Sana'a (RJ)
23:59 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights

06:15 Istanbul (TH)
06:20 London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
11:20 Cairo (MS)
15:00 Bahrain (GF)
15:50 Vienna (OS)
22:50 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

Sri Lanka troops take Tiger town; current toll exceeds 272

COLOMBO (AFP) — Government troops captured a rebel-held town in northern Sri Lanka Sunday, the sixth day of a major offensive that has killed at least 272 fighters on both sides, the Defence Ministry said.

Thousands of government soldiers dislodged guerrillas of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) from Nedunkerni, a small town surrounded by thick jungles in the north of the country, the ministry said.

"Over 100 terrorists are believed killed (overnight) and they include three top intelligence cadres," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Military sources said at least 10 soldiers were killed in the Nedunkerni battle and raised to 42 the number of troops killed since the offensive code named "Sure Victory" was launched Tuesday.

Nedunkerni is 30 kilometres southwest of the bigger town of Ommathai, where there was similar fighting in the past few days.

The Defence Ministry said more than 230 Tiger

rebels have been killed in fighting so far and many more wounded. The army too has suffered heavy casualties and military sources say more than 200 soldiers were wounded.

"The casualties on both sides are high because of long range artillery and mortar bomb attacks," a defence official here said. "The air force is providing close support to ground troops."

The Defence Ministry said troops took control of Nedunkerni after destroying four LTTE bases. On Saturday three Tiger trucks were bombed by helicopter gun ships.

For their part, the Tigers accused air force planes of dropping incendiary devices as part of the latest offensive in the island's north involving some 20,000 combat troops.

"Communities of people living in the forest are in panic. High winds have made their situation worse, sending the fire in all directions and greatly hampering their movement," the Tiger statement said.

The Tigers did not say if

there were casualties among civilians but said the military was shelling from three camps in the north.

"It is just reported that an entire family has been badly injured by shelling in (the village of) Nedunkerni," the Tiger statement said.

Earlier the Tigers said 37 of their fighters were killed in the first four days of fighting which began with the government mounting a three-pronged assault on rebel positions.

A Loodoo-based front organisation of the LTTE, the Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR), in a letter to newly-elected British Prime Minister Tony Blair urged the banning of weapons sales to Sri Lanka because of the ongoing fighting.

Officials said troops have begun clearing the newly-captured towns of Ommathai and Nedunkerni and were now moving towards their "next objective."

The LTTE's clandestine voice of Tigers Radio Sunday said there was heavy fighting in Ommathai and Nedunkerni but gave no details of the fighting or reports of latest casualties.

Officials said the offensive was aimed at capturing a 75-kilometre highway that runs through LTTE-held territory and opening a land route to the government-held northern peninsula of Jaffna.

Residents in the northern town of Vavuniya, 254 kilometres north of here, said they heard heavy shelling from an army camp there Sunday morning. The "Sure Victory" offensive was mounted from Vavuniya Tuesday while two more columns were advancing towards rebel-held territory from the east and the west, making it the highest ever ground offensive.

The LTTE, which is campaigning for a homeland in the north and east of the country, has said the latest fighting "could develop into one of the most callous of all Sri Lankan assaults on the north-east."

The military captured Jaffna town from the LTTE in December 1995, and since then has been ferrying supplies to the region from the mainland by air and sea because the only land route was under Tiger control.



A radical South Korean student hurls a tear gas canister back at police during a violent clash on the anniversary of the 1980 Kwangju massacre in Kwangju, South Korea Sunday. The students have been fighting police almost nonstop for three days, attempting to break out of the university in which police have contained them, and join the events surrounding the anniversary of the massacre in which hundreds of students were killed by the military during a popular uprising on May 18, 1980 (Reuter photo)

S. Korean students riot as Kwangju killings marked

KWANGJU, South Korea (R) — In emotional scenes Sunday South Korea for the first time honoured as heroes of democracy the mostly student victims of a 1980 army massacre in the South-western city of Kwangju.

But ceremonies at a newly dedicated cemetery attended by about 5,000 Kwangju residents, many of them elderly women still anguished by the loss of loved ones, were marred by vicious fighting between students and police.

About 3,000 students hurled rocks and firebombs at riot police at Chosun University for the second night running. They were seeking to parade through the streets the coffin of a young colleague who died of a heart attack during an anti-government protest in March.

A haze of tear gas hung over the campus, where the coffin lay, along with smoke from a series of bonfires set by radical students to take the sting out of the choking gas.

Streets around the university were ankle-deep in rubble, smashed glass and spent tear-gas canisters as police blocked the students from staging their march.

Prime Minister Kim Dae-jung led the official mourning during rites at the "May 18 Cemetery" to mark the anniversary of the 1980 military rampage.

"The Kwangju massacre was a fight to protect democracy," he told relatives of the victims who streamed into the cemetery in chartered buses, aboard trucks and on foot bearing incense and gifts of fruit for the dead.

"We should not forget the tragic past," he said. "The citizens of Kwangju should show their strength to overcome the past and help spread the spirit to all Koreans."

Mr. Koh laid a single white chrysanthemum on a black marble altar in front of a 40-metre high memorial in the form of stylised hands clasping an egg, a symbol of life.

Nearby, Choi Kil-Doog, whose 25-year-old daughter was eight months pregnant when soldiers shot her, wept beside a simple tombstone that read: "You were an angel. See you in heaven."

More than 200 people died, by official count, when paratroopers stormed Kwangju to crush an armed revolt against martial law imposed by then-General Chun Doo Hwan, who later became president.

Residents say several thousand may have been killed by machine-gun fire, rifle bullets and bayonets. Only recently have South Koreans begun to confront the darkest chapter in their recent history.

Mr. Chun was sentenced

to life in jail and his presidential successor, former General Roh Tae-Woo, to 17 years for their roles in the carnage. Final appeals in the case were exhausted in April.

Thousands of police cradling tear-gas rifles ringed the cemetery, wary of trouble from Chosun University students trying to upstage the event with their own funeral ceremony.

About 1,000 students managed to slip off the college grounds in small groups and marched on the cemetery where they arrived with roars and shouts.

Police around the graves drew back to avoid spilling the solemn funeral rites with violence. Earlier, they had succeeded in blocking militant workers and farmers from bursting in.

The bodies of 124 victims were moved to the new cemetery from nearby graves this month. Relatives of 19 others have refused to bury the remains. Other victims are listed as missing.

"What use is a new cemetery? It won't bring back my son," wailed Kim Chan-Un, prostrating herself on the grave of her son who was just 17 when paratroopers killed him.

"The government wouldn't have had to waste money building this cemetery if they hadn't massacred innocent people in the first place."

Notorious Australian criminal found hanged after escape attempt fails

SYDNEY (AFP) — One of Australia's most notorious criminals was found hanged in his cell Sunday hours after a jailbreak he planned with a serial killer was foiled, prison officials said.

Drugs Baron George Savvas, killer Ivan Milat and two other high-security prisoners had planned to overpower guards, don their uniforms then use a makeshift ladder to scale the walls of Maitland Jail, northwest of here, officials said.

It is believed the four were assisted by two outsiders in their plot which was thwarted late Saturday by a combined task force which had been involved in an undercover intelligence operation.

Savvas was found early Sunday morning hanging by a bedsheet from a doorframe in the segregated cell where he was placed the night before, evidently distressed at the failure of his

second escape bid. Milat, who was sentenced to life imprisonment last July for the grisly murders of seven young backpackers, was Saturday taken in chains and under heavy armed escort to Sydney's maximum-security Long Bay facility. He had told fellow prisoners he was desperate to escape and ready to kill to achieve his goal.

Corrections Services Assistant Commissioner Roo Woodham said. Milat had "put the word out" he wanted to break out because he saw little chance of being released on appeal, Mr. Woodham told journalists.

The killer's family told the Sun-Herald newspaper the 52-year-old was driven to the escape bid because he was depressed about spending the rest of his life behind bars for crimes he claimed he did not commit.

Justice David Hunt described Milat's crimes as "savage, cruel and truly horrible" last year while sentencing him after a 70-day trial that concluded one of the most chilling chapters in Australian criminal history.

Mr. Savvas, another "star" prisoner, became New South Wales state's most wanted man last year after a daring escape where he donned a blond wig and change of clothes during visiting hours then walked through six guarded security doors to freedom.

He spent eight months on the run but was arrested in March while dining with two women at an up-market Japanese restaurant here, thanks to an anonymous phone tip-off to police.

At the time of his escape, the former local council alderman had served just six years of a 30-year sentence for conspiring to import heroin.

Another arrest sought in S. Korea graft scandal

SEOUL (R) — A day after South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's son was put in jail on bribery charges, prosecutors Sunday sought to arrest a former intelligence chief linked to the corruption scandal.

President Kim, meanwhile, faced an uphill battle to redeem his public image.

The arrest of Kim Hyun-Chul, the president's second son, on charges of taking kickbacks worth millions of dollars marked the beginning of the end of a prosecution probe into pervasive graft laid bare by the multi-billion dollar collapse of Hanbo Steel Co.

On Sunday, prosecutors sought the arrest of the former deputy head of the Agency for National Security Planning, Kim Ki-Sup, who was a close associate of Kim Hyun-Chul, a prosecution official said.

Kim Ki-Sup will be charged with taking 150 million won (\$168,000) in kickbacks from the same businessman that Kim Hyun-Chul is accused of tapping for a bribe.

A court official said a judge would consider the request for an arrest warrant Monday.

Separately, news reports said prosecutors would Monday demand sentences for 11 people on trial for bribery in connection with the failure of Hanbo Steel Co. in January, among them three close aides of the president.

But while legal proceedings in what has become known as "Hanbogate" wind down, the woes of a president who took power vowing to erase graft are far from over.

"There are lingering suspicions that the prosecution deliberately stopped short of probing political links between Hanbo and the president."

Opposition politicians allege that the Hanbo affair is at the root of a political scandal connected to the funding of President Kim's 1992 election campaign, which his son helped manage.

"They allege the campaign was partly financed by a 90 billion won gift from the chairman of the Hanbo Group, Chong Tae-Soo, and that loans of five trillion won to his steelmaking flagship were to repay the favour."

State prosecutors were unable to establish any direct involvement by Kim Hyun-Chul in the loans-for-kickbacks scandal swirling around Hanbo Steel.

Instead, they charged him with accepting bribes of 3.2 billion won from unrelated businesses, and with failing to pay tax on 3.3 billion won he took as gifts. He faces a maximum sentence of life in jail for tax evasion, and five years for bribery, and is now being held in the Seoul Detention House.

"Hyun-Chul's arrest is not the end," the Doog-A Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial.

"Suspensions regarding his alleged involvement in the Hanbo loan scandal and his management of leftover funds from the 1992 presidential election are still left under a fog."

The opposition claims that the former security chief, Kim Ki-Sup, managed as much as 10 billion won in unspent campaign donations on behalf of the younger Kim.

"President Kim Young-Sam has to make an understandable apology and confession to the public regarding his son and the election fund," the JoongAng Ilbo daily said.

Media reports Sunday speculated that the president would make a statement on election donations during a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, and apologise again for his son. But few South Koreans believe a detailed accounting will be forthcoming, it is even possible.

Albania parties issue ultimatum after crisis talks

TIRANA (R) — Albania's political parties issued an ultimatum to President Sali Berisha Saturday, demanding changes in what they said are flawed electoral laws, after Western governments warned that aid depended on a deal leading to free and fair elections.

Elections due next month are aimed at restoring order to Albania, plunged into anarchy earlier this year after the collapse of Pyramid investment schemes into which many put their life savings.

Most of the parties in Prime Minister Bashkim Fino's national unity government had threatened to boycott the vote, saying the election laws favour Mr. Berisha and his former ruling Democratic Party.

Mr. Berisha Friday went ahead and called the election for June 29, despite the threatened boycott.

Mr. Fino summoned the

coalition leaders to a meeting Saturday which ended with the announcement of a "last chance" list of changes they said must be carried out if they were to take part in the election.

"The parties consider the above-mentioned proposals as the last chance for a compromise to carry out free elections and their participation in them," they said in a statement.

The proposals included changes to the composition of electoral commissions, changes in voting districts and insistence on a legal definition of the status of international monitors.

The crisis talks were held under increasing pressure from the West.

The European Union (EU) issued the latest of a string of warnings Friday that if a compromise was not found that ensured free and fair elections, international aid might be withheld.

"Should political stalemate not be overcome within the next days and elections not take place on June 29, the EU, in close cooperation with the international community as a whole, may be forced to reconsider its efforts of support in Albania," it said in a statement issued by the Dutch government.

Calls for compromise also came Friday from Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and from Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, the current chairman of the European security body, the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe).

Italy has said that an Italian-led multinational force protecting aid supplies, also seen as a factor for stability in Albania, may withdraw if the elections do not go ahead.

The crisis has dragged on despite the efforts of OSCE envoy Franz Vranitzky, who

left Friday at the end of a fifth mission in which he was again unable to resolve the crisis.

On Thursday, Mr. Vranitzky had persuaded parliament, dominated by Mr. Berisha's Democratic Party, to amend the electoral law, but the parties in Mr. Fino's government remained dissatisfied with the result.

Mr. Fino heads a nine-party government of national reconciliation which Mr. Berisha was forced to install in March, when anger about the failure of the investment schemes "boiled over" into insurrection.

International organisations want to avoid a repetition of the May 1996 elections, which international observers said were deeply flawed, and which the opposition Socialists boycotted on the last day of voting, leaving the Democratic Party the dominant force in parliament.

Patten warns against 'creeping socialism' in H. Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten warned Sunday against allowing the territory in full victim to "creeping socialism," just weeks before Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese rule.

Mr. Patten, in London on his last official visit before the July handover, said in a recorded radio message Hong Kong had "flourished best when government has trusted most in the expertise of the entrepreneur and the wisdom of the market."

"Whatever we do, we shouldn't throw away a winning ticket,"

Mr. Patten is in London to meet newly-elected Prime Minister Tony Blair, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and other officials to discuss the last weeks of British rule, especially the handover celebrations.

In his "Letter to Hong Kong" broadcast on government radio, Mr. Patten summed up the lessons he had learned in five years at the helm of the laissez-faire government of this economic powerhouse.

"If I've learned one important lesson from my five years in Hong Kong, it's to leave well alone when it comes to economic management," he said.

"Economic success isn't a matter of economic theories, a formula you find in the textbooks. It's a matter of performance. The real test of economic principles and policies is the results they deliver, the wealth they generate, the profits and job opportunities they create."

As a result, Mr. Patten said, "it would be an awful error if our road map for the future of Hong Kong's economy took us back down the highways and byways towards indicative planning and creeping socialism."

"Other parts of Asia, other parts of the world are moving in our direction. It would be folly to turn our back on policies that work and sign up to policies that are being rejected elsewhere."

Mr. Patten's successor as head of government, chief executive-designate Tung Chee-Hwa has been criticised by the government, and others, for his plans to scrap the elected legislature and change Hong Kong civil rights laws.

However, according to a poll published Sunday, most Hong Kong residents are in favour of the planned changes to local civil rights laws.

The survey showed 62 per cent of respondents are optimistic about Hong Kong's future while only nine per cent feel things are seriously going down "the wrong track."

The July transition to Chinese rule came a poor third to housing and the economy in terms of people's priorities, the poll by the pro-Beijing Business and Professionals Federation showed.

The controversial draft civil rights bill, tightening controls over political parties and demonstrations, were introduced to Hong Kong's future legislature at a meeting in southern China Saturday, after three weeks of public consultation.

Asked about the law changes proposed by future leader Tung Chee-Hwa, 72 per cent of those surveyed said they were in favour of one seeking political societies to register, while 60 per cent thought there was no need to place restrictions on the right of assembly.

The China-formed Provisional Legislature for Hong Kong, meeting in Shenzhen, southern China, showed the first signs of dissent in its ranks Saturday, when four members walked out of the proceedings to two draft bills widely criticised as curbing civil liberties in the territory.

The future Hong Kong government Thursday toned down the original proposals, making it technically easier to hold public protests and allowing parties to continue receiving donations from individuals abroad.

The Provisional Legislature will replace Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council after the territory is returned to China on July 1.

The Pontiff, who was born on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland, has suffered a series of health problems in recent years and undergone several operations.

He is also widely believed to be suffering from Parkinson's disease or a related ailment that causes his left hand to shake.

But he has said he will not retire and appeared in a relatively good form at Sunday's outdoor mass in Rome's working class Tiburtina neighbourhood.

Despite calls from his doctors to slow down his busy schedule of foreign travel, this year is proving one of the most hectic for some time for the Pontiff, whose globetrotting has earned him the nickname of the "pilgrim Pope."

He has visited Sarajevo, the Czech Republic and Lebanon in recent weeks and is due to make an 11-day trip to his homeland in June. More visits are scheduled to Paris in August and Brazil in October.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said in a birthday message that the "fruitful apostolic mission of the holy father to all corners of the world, such as the recent visits to Sarajevo and Beirut, is... a constant reminder to work for peace, justice and brotherhood between peoples."

Pope, on birthday, says wants to live to 100

ROME (R) — A jovial, healthy-looking Pope John Paul marked his 77th birthday Sunday saying that although he was approaching his "sunset," he hoped to live to be 100.

The Pontiff was feted by children and other worshippers of a Rome parish at one of his regular Sunday morning visits to churches in the Italian capital.

Addressing the children, who asked him what his birthday promise was, he replied: "To be good."

"I, after 77 years, am closer to (the) sunset (than you are)," he told them. "You are still children."

When the children chanted the Polish birthday refrain "Sto Lat" he said: "Do you know that 'Sto Lat' means 'may you live 100 years'? Well then, I've got 23 to go. Let's hope so. Time passes."

The Pope noted that he was born between five and six p.m. in 1920 and was also elected as head of the Roman Catholic Church between five and six p.m. in 1978.

He neglected to mention that it was also between five and six p.m. that he was shot and nearly killed by a Turkish gunman in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

"These are the moments of my life's history. Everyone has a personal history that leads to eternal life," he said.

Rebels enter government areas in Kinshasa

KINSHASA (R) — Laurent Kabila's victorious rebel forces marched into the government and diplomatic quarters of Zaire's capital Kinshasa Sunday, after a night of sporadic shooting in areas not yet under their control.

Wary hut smiling, the platoons moved steadily through some of the best-kept streets of the crumbling city to sustained cheering from onlookers, a day after Mr. Kabila and his rebels proclaimed victory in the seven-month civil war.

A senior rebel alliance official in Zaire's second city Lubumbashi said Mr. Kabila would send a delegation to Kinshasa Sunday to reassure the people about security and other concerns. In Rahat, a senior Moroccan security official said ousted President Mobutu Sese Seko and his family had arrived aboard three Gabonese planes and were staying in the Moroccan capital.

Small-arms and automatic fire crackled in Kinshasa during the night. Diplomats said there had been shooting close to some embassies and in the vicinity of a major hotel.

Exchanges of fire were also heard from the direction of the prime minister's office and other ministerial compounds nearby.

It was not clear whether the rebels were encountering resistance, or whether embittered factions of the government forces were settling scores.

In the eastern suburb of Lemba, an armed looter carrying a small refrigerator was confronted by two rebels soldiers and shot dead when he refused to lay down his gun. Witnesses said they left the body lying in the street as a warning to others.

Residents there said markets had reopened but were not fully operational.

One Lemba resident said

there was no sign of any of the defeated government soldiers in the streets. "No one wants to be seen in a military uniform," he said.

Mr. Kabila, 56, declared himself head of state in a statement he read at his headquarters in the southern mining city of Lubumbashi Saturday as his forces moved into Kinshasa virtually unopposed, to the cheers of residents.

He purged Africa's third largest nation of one of the more obvious symbols of Mr. Mobutu's rule — its name.

"Mr. Laurent Desire Kabila assumes from today the functions of the head of state of the Democratic Republic of the Congo," the statement said.

This was the name Zaire had from 1964 until Mr. Mobutu changed it in 1971.

In its first broadcast over national radio in Kinshasa, the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Li-

beration of Congo (AFDL) ordered all government troops to report by Sunday morning and warned looters they would be severely punished.

The United States, former colonial power Belgium, France, one of Mr. Mobutu's last friends, and Germany reacted to Mr. Kabila's victory by calling for a broad-based government and elections.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, speaking in Moscow, had a similar message for Mr. Kabila, urging him to respect the "choice and the voice" of the Zairean people.

Mr. Mobutu, 66 and suffering from prostate cancer, seized power in 1965 and proved one of Africa's most enduring strongmen. Western powers supported him as a cold war bastion against Soviet communism.

Critics denounced him as everything from a dictator to a thief and accused him

of plundering what is potentially one of Africa's richest countries and amassing a huge personal fortune while his people struggled against poverty and neglect.

Mr. Mobutu refused to resign as head of state, as demanded by Mr. Kabila, but abruptly left the capital Friday for his northern Zaire palace in Gbadolite.

Initial reports on casualties in Kinshasa as the rebels moved in were sketchy, but defence minister and army chief of staff General Mahele Lieko Bokungo was killed Friday night by members of the Presidential Guard.

Diplomats said Mahele had been planning to meet Mr. Kabila to discuss handing over power.

The United States welcomed what it called a relatively smooth transfer of power and urged the new leadership to set up an inclusive transitional government leading to elections.



Civilians cheer pro rebel slogans as they look at a dead government soldier killed during combat with the rebels as they moved into the capital city. By Sunday, the rebels were in control of the capital (Reuters photo)

First lady may face indictment on Whitewater — ABC News

WASHINGTON (R) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton could face indictment in the Whitewater land deal, ABC News reported Saturday, quoting an audiotape of testimony by a deputy to independent counsel Kenneth Starr.

ABC said it had obtained an audiotape of remarks by deputy independent counsel John Bates during a closed-door Appeals Court proceeding earlier this year.

"We certainly are investigating individuals, and those individuals, including Mrs. Clinton, could be indicted," Mr. Bates told the proceeding, according to ABC.

The Appeals Court ordered the White House to turn over notes on conversations between Mrs. Clinton and White House lawyers, but the White House Monday told the U.S. Supreme Court that it should not be forced to turn over the notes.

A White House spokeswoman declined to comment on the ABC report. President Bill Clinton did not acknowledge a question about the report shouted to him as he entered the annual White House press photographers dinner.

David Kendall, the president's private attorney, was not immediately available for comment.

Lawyers representing the office of the presidency asked the justices Monday to overturn a U.S. Appeals Court ruling that the attorney-client privilege does not apply to the notes subpoenaed by Mr. Starr.

President Clinton and his wife have not been accused of any wrongdoing in Mr. Starr's long-running investigation into the Whitewater affair, a complex web of Arkansas business deals involving the Clintons and allegations of cover-up.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide by the end

of next month whether to grant or deny the appeal. If the appeal is granted, arguments would be scheduled during the court term that begins in October.

The White House asserted in the appeal that the long-standing legal doctrine of attorney-client privilege applied to the conversations that Mrs. Clinton had with a team of government and private lawyers.

The privilege has been recognized as protecting conversations between attorneys and their clients from disclosure on the grounds that such disclosure require confidentiality.

But Mr. Starr has said White House lawyers, as government employees rather than the Clintons' personal lawyers, were "duty-bound" to turn over the disputed notes. He also said the unprecedented claims of privilege by the White House had delayed his investigation for months.

Clinton to set AIDS vaccine as national goal

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton is expected to set a national goal of finding a vaccine to prevent AIDS by 2007 and will pledge new federal efforts to make it happen, administration officials said Saturday.

Mr. Clinton is due to announce his new initiative, likening it to John F. Kennedy's challenge in the early 1960s to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade, in a commencement speech at Morgan State University in Baltimore Sunday.

During preparation of the text of Mr. Clinton's speech, there was intense debate within the White House over whether finding a vaccine to immunise people against AIDS in 10 years was an achievable goal, the officials said.

But the president wanted to set the deadline to give the matter the highest priority, they said.

Some 3 million people worldwide are yearly infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS and an estimated 29 million people carry the virus.

Officials said they expected development of drugs to make the disease fatal in fewer cases several years before a vaccine was found to prevent it.

Mr. Clinton chose Morgan State, a predominantly black college known for its focus on science and technology, to announce the initiative to underscore his commitment to the black community, which is disproportionately affected by AIDS.

His speech will also contain a renewed pledge to carry out research at the highest standard of ethics to ensure there is never a repetition of a government study in Tuskegee, Alabama, on poor black men whose syphilis went untreated for years.

At an emotional ceremony in the White House East Room Friday, Mr. Clinton apologised on behalf of the country to the Tuskegee men, calling the U.S. public health service research project "clearly racist" and "shameful." The study, which began in 1932 and continued until 1972, involved 399 poor black men who were left untreated for syphilis, even though treatment was available, to let doctors track the course of the disease.

Once the programme was stopped the men were given treatment for the disease.

To achieve the ambitious goal of developing a vaccine to prevent AIDS, Mr. Clinton will announce several measures, including creation of a new AIDS Vaccine Research Centre at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

In addition, Mr. Clinton plans to appeal for more international cooperation in the fight against AIDS and to announce that he will launch a campaign for more coordinated research among leading industrialised nations when he hosts the economic summit of the group of seven major industrialised nations plus Russia in Denver next month, the officials said.

Dhaka braces for severe cyclone; army alerted

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AFP) — Bangladeshi authorities Sunday ordered fishing boats to seek shelter and alerted disaster officials and volunteers along the southern coast against an advancing cyclone from the Bay of Bengal.

"We are alerting people ... to get prepared for evacuation at short notice," a district administrative official in the southern port city of Chittagong told AFP.

The official K.M. Habibullah said that the army had been alerted as well as some 33,000 disaster volunteers along the eight coastal

districts and off-shore islands with a population of more than 26 million.

In Dhaka, storm officials said the maximum cyclone danger signal of 10 was announced.

Port officials in Chittagong said as a precautionary measure movement of ships at the harbour had been suspended and vessels approaching the port were advised to stay away from storm zone.

Habibullah said disaster and other officials had been asked to prepare emergency evacuation and relief provisions.

Sinn Fein MPs travel to London to protest parliament office ban

BELFAST (R) — The leaders of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, travel to London Monday to protest against a ban on them using offices in Britain's parliament, to which they were elected on May 1.

"We will be at Westminster to secure our entitlement as elected representatives," Martin McGuinness, the party's chief negotiator told Sky Television.

Last week he and party President Gerry Adams were banned from using offices and other facilities in Britain's Westminster parliament because they refused to take the oath of allegiance to the queen which every incoming legislator must.

Their party, and its Irish Republican Army (IRA) sympathisers, want an end to British rule of Northern Ireland and the reunification of the province with the Irish Republic, while a Protestant majority want it to remain British.

Mr. Adams refused to say at the weekend whether his party would take legal action to try to secure offices, free telephones and other facilities to which the 659 legislators are entitled.

But Mr. McGuinness said the showdown might "put the British people in a situation where they are exposed throughout the world."

The visit was aimed at "explaining to the British people that we are entitled to be supported so that our people (voters) will not be disadvantaged or discriminated against."

Mr. Adams argued at the weekend that his party had no other place to send elected representatives even though it was to a parliament whose authority over Northern Ireland it contests.

He accused the speaker of the parliament, Betty Boothroyd, who took the decision to ban Sinn Fein, of changing the rules. "It's a case of one day Britannia rules the waves and next day Britannia waves the rules," he said.

The one-day London visit will take place amid moves by the new Labour government to hold preliminary talks with Sinn Fein, ending months of international isolation to punish the IRA for ending a 17-month ceasefire in February last year.

The initiative, announced in Belfast by Prime Minis-

ter Tony Blair Friday, has met a lukewarm response from Sinn Fein, which says the ban was wrong in the first place and maintains that the IRA is a separate organisation.

The London visit will be part of a campaign by Sinn Fein to demand its inclusion at Belfast peace talks from which it has been banned since the start last year because of the IRA's failure to end its war against British rule.

Mr. McGuinness gave no hint of a new IRA ceasefire but said he wanted the talks to take place against a "peaceful background." The IRA has not carried out any attacks in Northern Ireland since a sniper seriously wounded a police-woman last month.

He said Sinn Fein wanted assurances from Mr. Blair's government that the talks would have a six to nine-month time frame, be meaningful and credible and would not turn into negotiations to make the IRA surrender its arsenal.

"We need to know that decommissioning is not going to be a blockage to substantive negotiations," Mr. McGuinness said.

U.K. government to probe sleaze claims

LONDON (R) — Britain's Labour government said it would mount an urgent investigation into claims that one of its newly-elected members of parliament tried to bribe a rival to lose in the general election two weeks ago.

A Sunday newspaper alleged that Britain's first Muslim MP paid £5,000 (\$8,000) to an independent candidate to prove a severe embarrassment to Labour, which fought the election promising to sweep out sleaze from politics.

The News Of The World reported that millionaire businessman Mohammad Sarwar paid an independent Labour rival, also a Muslim, in his Glasgow constituency to ease off campaigning so as not to split both the Labour and Asian vote.

"It is not appropriate to comment on this

until we have heard in full Sarwar's side of the story," a Labour spokesman told reporters.

"Party officials will speak to him as soon as possible and, should further action need to be taken in the light of this, we will not hesitate to do so."

Labour won a landslide victory in the May 1 election, returning to power after 18 years on a promise of change from a Conservative administration riddled with allegations of financial and sexual impropriety.

The News Of The World quoted the independent Labour candidate, Badar Islam, as saying: "Sarwar asked me to ease off my canvassing and said I would be compensated. Naturally he didn't want me to break his vote, to take his vote, to disturb his vote."

U.S. to decide on Romanian and Slovenian admission to NATO

BRUSSELS (AFP) — NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana heads for the United States Monday in a bid to learn more of Washington's views on the choice of the first Eastern European states to join the alliance.

Invited by President Bill Clinton, who wants to congratulate him personally for obtaining an agreement with Moscow on NATO-Russia relations, Mr. Solana will also meet Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defence Secretary William Cohen and National Security Advisor Samuel Berger.

While the leaders of the 16 member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are expected at their meeting in Madrid in July to agree that the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland be invited to join, the question of Romania and Slovenia is still in the balance.

A dozen states in all are candidates to join NATO, but apart from the five mentioned the others have little chance of being selected initially.

"The United States must clarify its position, which will be determinant," said a

European diplomat, adding that up to now Washington had only given the impression that it strongly favoured the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

The diplomat said that NATO foreign ministers would have to "put their cards on the table" when they hold their regular six-monthly meeting at Cintra in Portugal on May 29.

Another source agreed that this meeting would be a golden opportunity to obtain a consensus.

At the moment NATO members are split into three over the question of future members, one diplomat said.

"There is Germany and those countries which recommend an invitation to only three nations for practical and political reasons," the diplomat said.

These include the cost, the ability of the organisation to absorb several new members at the same time, and the desire to show that the door remains open to such candidates as the Baltic states.

"There are those members who want to invite up to five countries including Romania and Slovenia," the

diplomat added. These include Belgium, Canada (which would also add Slovakia), France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey, which want to see a geographically balanced expansion of NATO.

"And then there is the United States and Britain, which have not yet made their choice public," the diplomat said.

Another diplomat noted the strong European feeling in favour of admitting Romania, saying that if Germany backed Bucharest the United States could follow suit.

For the Clinton administration, confronted with a Republican majority in Congress which seems less and less enamoured of NATO expansion eastwards at all, the choice of Romania is far from easy, however.

Washington could go halfway there in supporting the membership of Slovenia, a small country which poses no problems of integration, but one source said that for Greece and Turkey this was not enough.

France and Italy, in particular, would also be unhappy to see their active support for Romania's membership being reduced to naught.

Fairer sex seeks fairer deal in Confucian Vietnam

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's most powerful women gather this week to gently push for sexual equality, a tenet of Marxist-Leninist thought the Communist nation still struggles to match with its Confucian heritage of female subservience.

"Right on sisters" bawled the weekly Vietnam courier in the headline of a scene-setting report on the eighth National Congress of the Women's Union, a two-day event which will open Monday.

In reality, the rhetoric of militant feminism is likely

to go unheard at a gathering which has been timed to coincide with the birthday of a man — modern Vietnam's founding father and revolutionary, Ho Chi Minh.

"Vietnam is an oriental country and we preserve the traditional role of women," Truong My Hoa, president of the Women's Union, told Reuters.

"I think...we can avoid the excessive trends of other countries," she said, referring to brazen acts of emancipation in the West in the 1960s such as the burning of bras. "Those obscene acts

would be very strange in our country."

Nevertheless, Ms. Hoa said that the congress — which is held once every five years — would set out a new agenda to empower women, promote their education and health and lift them out of poverty.

Founded in 1930, the Women's Union played a key role in Vietnam's long and bitter struggle for independence, but switched its focus to gender issues after the Vietnam War ended in 1975.

Now, with a membership

of 11 million people — five times that of the ruling Communist Party — it is one of the country's most influential and far-reaching mass organisations.

In terms of gender equality, Vietnam already has a good head start on many other Asian nations.

Inspired by the emphasis that the late Ho Chi Minh placed on the role and potential of women, the post-war government has demonstrated a strong commitment to an even-handed treatment of both sexes in education, health-care and

participation in the labour force.

Although women are still poorly represented in the upper echelons of government, they still do better than their sisters in other countries and look set to gain more ground.

There are 73 women in the lawmaking National Assembly, 18.5 per cent of the total. Only 12 of the 173 countries in the World Parliamentary Union can boast a higher rate, and women have been given a quota of 25 per cent for the new assembly which will be

elected in July.

However, the official policy of equality still clashes with centuries-old Confucian values, which essentially hold that women should work hard and obey their fathers, husbands and sons.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Vietnam's achievements in gender equality are being eroded and those values are being reasserted in the process of market reform.

It argues that young girls and women are working

longer hours and on an increasing number of tasks, particularly in rural areas, often at the expense of leisure, education and careers.

Researchers estimate that women carry out about 60 per cent of the agricultural workload on top of household work. The UNDP says in a fact sheet on the advancement of women. "Yet across the board...women earn only 72 per cent of the average male wage."

Heather Grady, country representative of the charity Oxfam, says the society's natural prejudice means

women are regularly losers in the economic reform process.

Women are often the first victims of redundancy at state-owned firms which are feeling the cold wind of free-market competition. And it is nearly always the name of a man, not his wife, that appears on the title deed for land once owned collectively.

"It's a question of rhetoric versus reality," she says. "Things aren't going to change until there's a change in perspective on gender."

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Disadvantaged group

THE PROJECTION that by 2007, 53,000 women would be leading their families on their own is a sign of the changing times. That number, which at the moment is below 40,000, indicates a significant shift in public attitude towards women. That so many women live without spouses, fathers or brothers tells of an increasing acceptance in the predominantly male-led society of women as equals.

Yet the results of a study that were published yesterday show that women are too far from gaining their full rights as equal to men. One major problem most of the women surveyed suffered from is that they were not equipped with the right education that would enable them to acquire decent jobs with decent pay. This problem is deeply embedded in society's attitude towards the education of girls as opposed to boys. While in most societies parents have near-total freedom to educate their children the way they see fit, that should not be the norm in developing countries that still have negative attitudes towards women. During transition from family-centred, rural communities to more urban, industrial societies, the education of women needs to be encouraged by incentives and penalties. Not only that. Women and children rights must be put formulated into laws and these laws enforced.

Despite so many strides taken in this direction in our country in recent years, women are still discriminated against. Women, for example, cannot automatically give their nationality to their children unless their fathers are Jordanian. Women are still not treated as equal as men at the work place. They do not get the same pay or the same benefits like men. And even when women take jobs and earn money they continue to do the work at home and care for the children, something that, more than often, they do better than men. But worst of all though, women get murdered in the name of honour.

While we head towards industrialisation, economic competitiveness and globalism in a rapidly changing world we cannot escape our responsibility towards women in general and women who solely head their families in particular. This particular group deserves the attention of government, Parliament, the media and civil society organisation. Their wellbeing is the responsibility of us all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EVERY TIME Israel makes a move designed to escalate tension in the Middle East, like building settlements on Arab lands or committing other violations or crimes, the United States sends its envoy Dennis Ross to the region to try to protect such measures and justify them before the Palestinians, said Mahmoud Rimiawi, a writer for Al Ra'i Sunday. The total failure that met Ross in his recent mission and his return to Washington empty-handed stem from the U.S. administration's reluctance to deal firmly with the Israeli violations, its failure to offer solutions acceptable to both Palestinians and the Israelis and to cater to the requirements of a durable and just peace, he said. The writer said it is not becoming the world's superpower to act merely as a postman, delivering messages and shuttling between the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships, at a time when it can exercise real and prompt authority to save the peace process from total collapse, as it seems to be presently. One begins to wonder if the so-called U.S. mediation efforts are not by themselves an obstacle to the achievement of peace and a way to delay or prevent any solution to the Middle East conflict, said the writer. Citing a recent statement by the American official spokesman as saying that the Abu Ghneim affair is nothing more than a housing project, the writer said such remarks clearly manifest the American administration's support for the Israelis in their drive to confiscate Arab-owned lands and building on them Jewish settlements by force.

SELDOM DOES the summer season pass by without a fire in one of the Kingdom's few forests, burning down a great number of trees that took ages to grow, said Nuzih, a writer for Al Ra'i. This summer, the first fire in the town of Sakeh, which is surrounded by forests, ruined a 15-kilometre stretch of woodland; it was blamed on negligence, on the part of official authorities, to undertake very drastic measures and deterrent actions against irresponsible citizens who make fire during their outings, he noted. The civil defence authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture should not be satisfied with only issuing appeals to the public to take extra care in protecting the trees, they should rather resort to severe penalties for people found making fire under trees, especially in the summer season when the bushes and trees are so dry that they easily catch fire, demanded the writer. Traditional methods are not sufficient to prevent disasters, he said, stressing the need for the introduction of new techniques and the intensive employment of the media to help prevent the occurrence of such fires which cost the country invaluable natural wealth.

Economic Review

The changing face of foreign aid should make protectionism a thing of the past

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

THE "GOOD old days" of yesteryears when grant money dominated aid are gone. Bilateral aid to Jordan is on the decline and international aid is assuming a larger portion of the total aid package. This trend means that bilateral aid, which in the past used to come mainly in the form of grants, is being replaced by international aid which usually comes in the form of loans — soft or otherwise. [Jordan is supposed to receive \$360 million in loans in 1998, mainly from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).]

However, Jordan is not the only country to suffer the switch to loans; foreign aid is becoming more and more scarce worldwide. As a result, governments must alter their old management techniques to adopt to the new condition placed on them: aid funds must be optimally managed and invested because of the very fact that they are becoming extremely scarce and because they are loans; and since loans have to be paid back, with interest, they cannot be wasted. Better still, private investors should be sought to provide foreign direct investments to replace lenders in financing Jordan's needs.

But before delving further into the very important topic of aid and financing development, a caveat is in order: there is no foreign conspiracy to retard the growth of the nation by restricting or altering the nature of foreign aid. In other words, if the Jordanian economy does not do well this year, it is because productivity is low, things are moving too slow, and not enough is being done, not because donor countries have suddenly decided to squeeze Jordan. In short, no one else should carry the blame for a sluggish economy. In still other words, the world does not care how well Jordan does or does not do. The welfare of Jordan is up to those who claim to be Jordanians. It is their responsibilities as "citizens" — not simply Jordanians — to do the right thing for their country. The World Bank is not out to get Jordan, it is trying to help Jordan by providing expert advice and know-how that is truly valuable and necessary for development and growth. The IMF is not conspiring to lower or raise the dinar; the stability of the dinar is an important component in the making of any type of reform, economic, social or otherwise. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is not forcing Jordan to become a member, the world as a whole is becoming a member in the WTO. Privatising the economy is not being done to sell-off the nation; not in the least. It is being done so that the entire labour force does not become a public servant one day and to entice investors and investment into the Jordanian market. In short, there is no grand conspiracy, just a few inefficient

cies here and there which still cripple what should have become an emerging economy if some things had moved faster. And it should become so because Jordan has to compete with other developing countries, even including the once oil-rich countries of the Gulf.

The way forward and out of the quagmire is to strategically attract foreign investment to Jordan. However, decision makers must behave as competitors in a strongly competitive market where the demand for funds is growing while the supply is growing at a slower rate.

According to an article by Eric Ipsen, published on March 24, 1997, in the International Herald Tribune, private capital flows to developing countries jumped by \$60 billion in 1996, thereby signalling a shift from bank loans to stocks and bonds. Flows of private capital, which increased 6-fold in the last five years, presently represent more than 80 per cent of the funds earmarked for the developing world. Investors worldwide are looking to diversify their portfolios and are looking not for a country or countries that merely has/have low- or high-interest rates but for dynamic emerging markets.

In 1996, placements of shares and bonds have attracted \$46 billion, compared to \$28 billion in 1995, with the majority of the borrowers being from the private sector. Foreign direct investment (FDI) rose by \$14 billion in 1996, to \$109.5 billion, more than four times the amount of FDI in the early 1990s.

Emerging markets have borrowed \$34.2 billion from banks in 1996, up by 29 per cent compared to the previous year. Furthermore, private capital flows are shifting from debt to equities. Portfolio flows accounted for 38 per cent of all private flows last year, helping boost the total value of developing countries' stock markets to \$1.5 trillion, 10 per cent of the global total. (The Amman Financial Market should utilise the new Securities Law which took effect two days ago to deepen investment and become globalised).

Jordan is not the centre of the universe, and investors are not clamouring to come in. (Investment spending so far this year is less than one third what it was for the same period last year. This is a fact!) The message the world sends to Jordan is clear: move fast, be transparent and emerge; advertise a globally oriented and dynamic market and investment funds will come. This message carries a big responsibility and a mandatory change of attitude. Jordan must compete for investment, not only with neighbouring countries, such as Egypt and Israel, but also with the rest of the world. The protectionist attitude of the past must become simply that, something of the past.

'Voice of reason which condemns Israeli intransigence will ultimately be heard'

By Dr. A. Clare Brandabur

SEEING AN item, from the Jerusalem Post by Ariel Sharon, a newcomer to the Internet might be forgiven for thinking (as words like "truth," "heart," and "soul" crop up) that he had stumbled into the comedy section of the Entertainment page. Further perusal, however, showed it to be indeed in the News category and the former general, now Israeli statesman, let some interesting information slip out between the lines, what he hints at is more revealing than what he actually says. Though it is Sharon's settlement policies which actually drive the bulldozers on Jabal Abu Ghneim, he has kept a low profile, presumably to avoid protests by Netanyahu's coalition partners, some of whom regard him as a liability.

It was during a Peace Now demonstration in the aftermath of the Israeli 1982 invasion of Lebanon that one of the protesters, a brilliant young math professor at Hebrew University, was killed and some 18 of his colleagues were seriously injured by a hand grenade thrown by the Meir Kahane faction in front of Menachem house. And Sharon was the subject of the protest. The protesters heeded Begin to exclude Sharon from his cabinet, knowing that if he remained in a position of power, peace with the Palestinians would never happen. It turns out they were right.

Shortly after that protest, a gifted Israeli composer wrote me a letter in which he said he was leaving Israel: "I feel like a quaker, but I cannot live in a fascist state. My mail is opened, my telephone is tapped, my best friend was killed by a hand grenade thrown by Jewish fanatics in front of the prime minister's house."

He said that hundreds of young idealists were leaving Israel out of despair at the injustice of their government towards the Palestinians and the increasing censorship of dissenting voices. Because a heavy tax is levied on anyone departing permanently, they pack an overnight bag, tell their parents they are going skiing in Switzerland, buy a round-trip ticket, and then head for the West.

Coming back to Sharon's article, he proposes several steps which he regards as essential. First, the direct election law must be changed, he says, to prevent the rule of one man. Next, "in order to continue the peace process, which all of us want, and in order not to be pushed back to the Green Line..." he even suggests that Israel define its borders!

Of course Sharon is concerned about terrorism: first, he says, the Palestinian National Authority must actually eliminate the "terrorist infrastructure" (which in any resistance to illegal occupation involves the whole community) and second, the Israeli military must be given clear orders and backing to combat terrorism. This requirement on the part of the Israelis that the Palestinian National Authority be their "enforcers" is one of the most humiliating and outrageous conditions imposed on the Palestinians as a direct result of the Oslo agreement.

But Sharon's primary concern is that the government make "aliya" its number one priority: this suggests that there are too few, not too many, Israelis to suit Mr. Sharon. "Har Homa," the new settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim, is necessary not to house Jews already in Israel, but to recruit more Jewish immigrants with promises of free land.

Sharon advocates expanding propaganda, called "Jewish and Israel-related education" in the former Soviet Union and in the West, and gives an alarmed account of the return of Palestinian refugees to the Galilee, mostly through marrying Palestinian women from Gaza and the Hebron area, and of the Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem.

Then he laments that "other countries and foreign industries are enlisting much of our brain power." Is it possible that, like the idealistic composer who left in despair after 1982, many bright young Israelis are still escaping the stifling racist oppression?

A few days ago, Jewish theologian and philosopher, Marc Ellis, author of "Beyond Innocence and Redemption," spoke at Bir Zeit University and gave a moving remembrance of the Deir Yassin Massacre of 1948. He addressed the same

issue on Rami Khouri's TV programme "Encounter". Marc Ellis asked "Rami Khouri in effect: 'Who will want to be a Jew in 100 years, unless we stop doing to another people what was done to us?'"

Ellis advocates the "new thing" that Jerusalem could become if its shared space were used for ordinary, everyday living by Arab and Jew, and urges opening up the holy places to Muslim, Christian and Jew alike. But Marc Ellis, for all his good will, has not actually lived under Israeli occupation or witnessed the heating of the stone-throwers until their bones were crushed at the explicit orders of Yitzhak Rabin. I am afraid he underestimates the damage already done.

Yeats said: "Too long a sacrifice doth make a stone of the heart." What could fifty years of sadistic violence and systematic abuse do? If the Palestinians have been brutalised — the miracle, I often think, is that every last one of them has not become an ax murderer — what of the youth who have to serve in the Israeli army of oppression? Have they already been forced to become too cruel and sadistic to make good neighbours? Is it surprising that the young soldier, ordered to go into the rickety houses in the Palestinian camps and beat the father in front of his children, urinate in the olive oil, and dump six months supply of rice on the floor, is told by his rabid rabbi in Kiryat Arba, should he confess that breaking bones of children bothers him, not to worry since the important thing is that he did not do it to a Jew?

No wonder that those whose inner voice is strong enough not to be silenced by such ghastly advice are leaving.

Yet statesman Sharon wants to bring in another generation, from Russia and France, and subject them to the same perverse discipline.

Sometimes said that murder damages the murderer more than it damages his victim.

Surely there is an alternative. All the settlers from Brooklyn and Far Rockaway could go home and deal with the problems of racism and land-shortage there, and obey the new U.S. laws on gun-control that would make their

automatic weapons illegal. Admittedly, it will be hard to find such a deal as free land and open season on the neighbours.

The recent "Statement of Principles of the New Committee on the Middle East" in the NETS Anchor, under the subject heading "Mid-East Realities-COME" includes as the first of its Ten Principles for a new U.S. Middle East foreign policy the following: "A complete withdrawal of the Israeli army and intelligence services from the territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war in accordance with numerous United Nations resolutions thus allowing for the creation of a fully sovereign Palestinian state with U.N. membership, capital in East Jerusalem, and serving as a democratic homeland for all people of Palestinian origin including those who were forced to flee Palestine during the 1948 and 1967 wars and during the years of Israeli occupation."

This statement bears the endorsement of many respected scholars and human rights advocates around the world: Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general; Professor Noam Chomsky, MIT; Dr. Eyad Sarraj, Gaza; the late Henry Schwarzschild, original founder of COME; Professor Richard Falk, Princeton University; Jeremy Levin, former CNN Beirut Bureau chief; Qais Saleh, International University, Japan; Dr. Manjira Schuab, Cape Town; Professor Majid Tehrani, University of Hawaii, to mention only a few.

Though the United States tries, through a gross abuse of its U.N. Security Council veto, to silence the international voice of reason which condemns Israeli intransigence and supports a just peace for all parties in the Middle East, it will ultimately be heard, despite the grandiose racist dreams of Ariel Sharon. And when it is listened to, Jews as well as Arabs, Christians as well as Muslims, will be allowed to be neighbours and to live in peace.

The author is on the staff of the English Department at Al Isra University, Amman. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Human Rights File

'Libya's Green Book' supersedes all international norms'

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

LIBYA'S REPORT to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) was examined last week after a few days interruption due to the inability of the Libyan delegation to arrive on time.

The U.N. Security Council sanctions against Libya have prevented the Libyan officials who were entrusted with the task of presenting the report from flying out of the country to reach Geneva for the meeting on time.

By way of introduction, the Libyan delegation went to great length describing how all the provisions of the CESCR are already enshrined in the Green Book. Tripoli, CESCR was told, did not find it necessary to incorporate the articles of the covenant into its domestic legislation, as called for by Article 2, since the Green Book has given expression to them. Of course, the response of the Libyan delegation was not considered satisfactory by the committee, as specific legislative action should have been taken for that purpose.

The status of the covenant in Libya was not deemed acceptable by the 18-member committee of experts. To give added emphasis to the dubious status of the covenant, some members asked if its provisions were justifiable in the sense that they can be evoked in a court of law. The reply was negative, to the disappointment of the committee.

The delegation also tried to paint the Jamahiriya structure of government as extensive enough to give expression to the right to self-determination, by which the people have the right to determine not only their political future but also their economic, social and cultural course. There were few eyebrows raised at the suggestion that the popular conferences and the popular committees, the mainstay of the Jamahiriya's style of government, were adequate for the purposes of allowing the Libyans an operational opportunity to decide their political, economic, social and cultural course.

Uppermost on the minds of some of the experts is the suspicion that running the country and conducting its affairs on the basis of popular conferences or committees is too unruly for the purpose of providing the public a viable occasion to decide on national issues confronting their country.

Regarding the status of the Green Book, it was asked whether it is amenable to change and modification or it is so sacrosanct as to make it basically untouchable.

After considerable hesitation, the delegation answered that in view of the nature of the book and the fact that it was adopted by a popular conference, only the people, and through such a plenary decision, would any amendments be introduced to it.

The delegation hastened to add, however, that since the principles of the book are so well thought out and articulated in such a manner as to address all present and future events and developments, there is no need for any modifications to meet future exigencies.

The expulsion of foreign workers, as happened in 1995, was also raised. The committee wanted to know whether the mass expulsions were arbitrary. The attention of the committee centred on whether there were court decisions on the subject that could be appealed. After a long discourse on the illegal presence of thousands of foreign workers who entered the country in search for livelihood and to take advantage of the national subsidies of foods, the head of the delegation confirmed that in fact there were no court decisions and that the expulsions were carried out in the wake of popular conference decisions.

The delegation also described the presence of so many foreign labourers without as much as identity papers, much less with legal residence, as to have led to several abuses, including drug trafficking and the spread of some epidemics.

Of course the replies of the Libyan delegation on this subject were not deemed satisfactory when viewed against the international norm, that stipulates that even foreign people lacking legal residence permits cannot be deported without a court ruling that is also subject to an appeal.

The Libyans were also quizzed on the role of women and the continuing discrimination against them. The reply of the delegation was direct and simple: Islamic Sharia is the overriding rule of law in the country, as is the case everywhere in Muslim countries; and where the Sharia condones some elements of distinction between man and women, Libya has no choice but to apply them.

One naive member of the committee then asked if the women in Libya ever entertain the thought of changing the Sharia with regard to their lot. The answer was swift: The women of Libya are totally satisfied with the Sharia, fully understand the reasons and rationale behind the distinctions between the genders and fully support them.

LETTERS

Amending laws

To the Editor:

IT IS very frustrating to read about children and women being killed in Jordan. In your May 14 edition, you reported the killing of a woman and four children. This is very alarming and sad.

Laws that protect our children and women should be written and enforced. The penalties should be severe. Tribal or civil, outside-court settlements should not be allowed to influence and reduce sentences. Those who harm children and women should suffer as much as their victims. Everybody should be made to realise that life is precious. People should be educated regarding the effects of maltreatment of children and women.

I would also like to point out Ali Kassas's article "The several ages of Eve" (Jordan Times, May, 14).

We all know of the second-class treatment of our women in many sections of our laws. We should amend these issues. Correcting such laws, I believe, will in no way conflict with religion. Examples include not allowing children to marry. The marriage age should be 18. It is ridiculous to believe that a 14-year-old can make a life-time decision and raise children.

Osama K. Al Shaykh,
UC, Berkeley,
U.S.

General Dayan on the Golan Heights: The kibbutzim didn't even try to hide their greed for that land'

By Serge Schmemmann

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — It is an article of faith among Israelis that the Golan Heights were seized in the 1967 Middle East war to stop Syria from shelling the Jewish settlements down below. The future of the Golan is central to the search for peace in the Middle East, and much of the case against returning it to Syria rests on the fear of reviving that threat.

But like many of Israel's other founding legends, this one has come under question, and from a most surprising quarter: Moshe Dayan, the celebrated commander who, as defence minister in 1967, gave the order to conquer the Golan.

General Dayan died in 1981. But in conversations with a young reporter five years before that, he said he regretted not having stuck to his initial opposition to storming the Golan Heights.

There really was no pressing reason to do so, he said, because many of the fire fights with the Syrians were deliberately provoked by Israel, and the kibbutz residents who pressed the government to take the Golan did so less for security than for the farmland.

General Dayan did not mean the conversations as an interview, and the reporter, Kati Tal, kept his notes secret for 21 years — until he was persuaded by a friend to make them public. They have been authenticated by historians and by General Dayan's daughter Yael Dayan, a member of parliament, and were pub-



Moshe Dayan

lished in the weekend magazine supplement of the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth at the end of April.

Historians have already begun to debate whether General Dayan was giving an accurate account of the situation in 1967 or whether his version of what happened was coloured by his disgrace after the 1973 Middle East war, when he was forced to resign as defence minister over the failure to anticipate the Arab attack.

But on a more immediate level, the general's comments play directly into the current dispute over whether the Golan Heights

should be returned to Syria in exchange for peace. The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is firmly opposed to returning the Golan, contending that the high ground is vital for Israel's security.

"Look, it's possible to talk in terms of 'the Syrians are bastards, you have to get them and this is the right time,' and other such talk, but that is not policy," General Dayan told Mr. Tal in 1976. "You don't strike at the enemy because he is a bastard, but because he threatens you. And the Syrians, on the fourth day of the war, were not a threat to us."

According to the pub-

lished notes, Mr. Tal began to remonstrate. "But they were sitting on the Golan Heights, and —"

General Dayan interrupted: "Never mind that. After all, I know how at least 80 per cent of the clashes there started. In my opinion, more than 80 per cent, but let's talk about 80 per cent. It went this way: We would send a tractor to plow some area where it wasn't possible to do anything, in the demilitarised area, and knew in advance that the Syrians would start to shoot. If they didn't shoot, we would tell the tractor to advance farther, until in the end the Syrians would get annoyed and shoot. And then we would use artillery and later the air force also, and that's how it was."

General Dayan's resistance to storming the Golan Heights in the first days of the 1967 war is established history, as is his abrupt change of mind on June 9, the fourth day of the war, when he called the northern commander directly — bypassing the chief of staff, Yitzhak Rabin, and the prime minister, Levi Eshkol — and ordered him to go to war against Syria.

The common wisdom is that General Dayan was wary of stretching Israeli military resources until the wars with Egypt and Jordan were settled, that he feared provoking the Soviet Union by an attack on its main client-state and that the difficult and uncertain offensive would cost many lives. The swift victories over Egypt and Jordan then supposedly changed his mind.

But in the conversations

with Mr. Tal, General Dayan raised another consideration. "What he told me," Mr. Tal said, "what is quoted in the conversation, is that he understood even in time of war that we would be compelled to return most of the territories that we won if we wanted peace with the Arabs."

In the Golan Heights, General Dayan anticipated that Israeli farmers would waste no time settling on the fertile land, making it difficult subsequently to withdraw.

The general said in his conversation with Mr. Tal that the kibbutz leaders who had urgently demanded that Israel take the heights had done so largely for the land.

"The kibbutzim there saw land that was good for agriculture," he said. "And you must remember, this was a time in which agricultural land was considered the most important and valuable thing."

Mr. Tal asked, "So all the kibbutzim wanted was land?"

General Dayan answered: "I'm not saying that. Of course they wanted the Syrians to get out of their face. They suffered a lot because of the Syrians. Look, as I said before, they were sitting in the kibbutzim and they worked the land and had kids and lived there and wanted to live there. The Syrians across from them were soldiers who fired at them, and of course they didn't like it."

"But I can tell you with absolute confidence, the delegation that came to persuade Eshkol to take the

heights was not thinking of these things. They were thinking about the heights' land. Listen, I'm a farmer too. After all, I'm from Nahalal, not from Tel Aviv, and I know about it. I saw them, and I spoke to them. They didn't even try to hide their greed for that land."

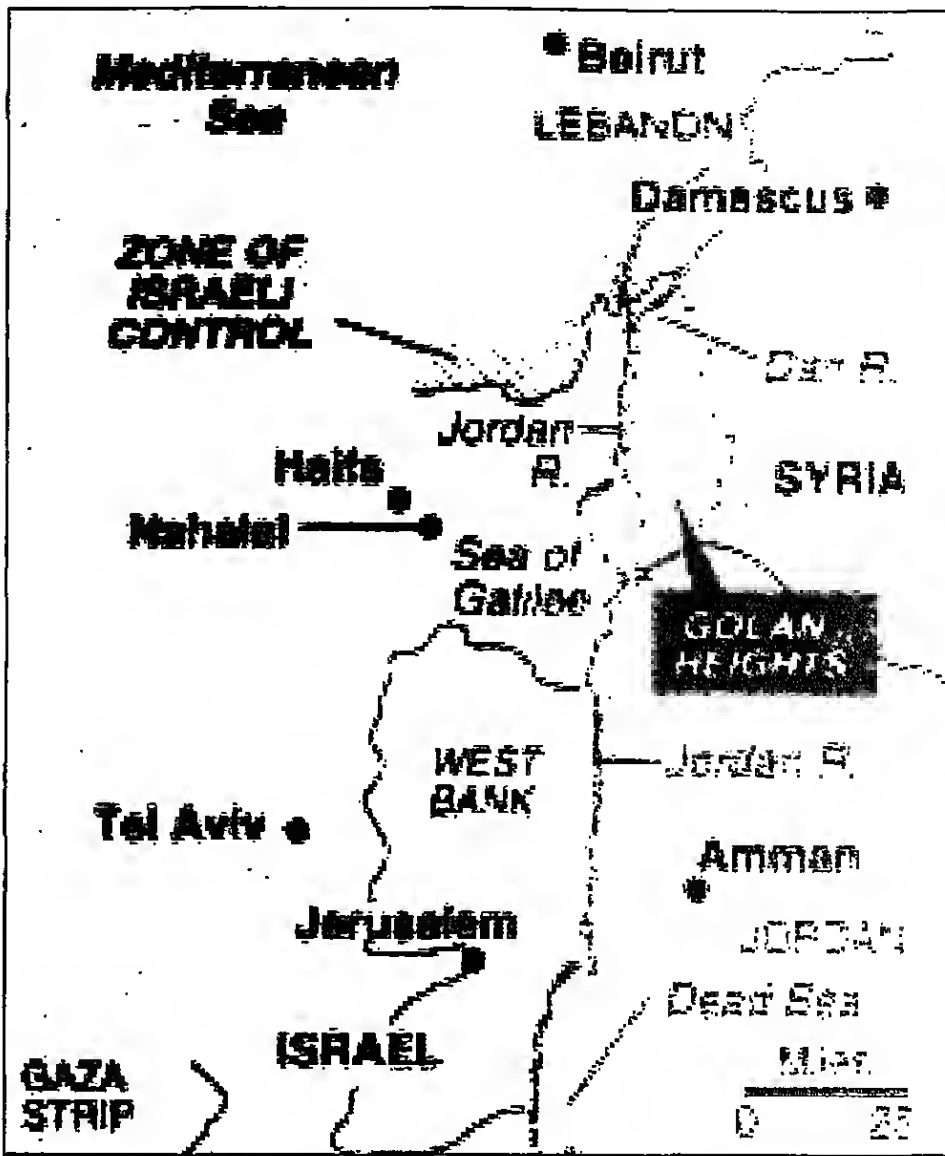
That contention was hotly

denied by Muky Tsur, a leader of the United Kibbutz Movement.

"For sure there were discussions about going up the Golan Heights," he said, "but the discussions were about security for the kibbutzim in Galilee. I think that Dayan himself didn't want to go to the Golan

Heights. This is something we've known for many years. But no kibbutz got any land from conquering the Golan Heights. People who went there went on their own. It's cynicism to say the kibbutzim wanted land."

New York Times



Hong Kong and Beijing — worlds apart

By Mure Dickie
Reuter

HONG KONG — From midnight on June 30, Hong Kong and Beijing will be under one national roof, reunited at last as brethren cities in the Chinese motherland after more than 150 years of British rule in the territory.

But for most visitors travelling to the southern harbour city from China's northern capital, the two cities are likely to still seem worlds apart.

It will take direct trains about 40 hours to travel the 2,356 km from Beijing to Hong Kong, a day-and-a-half journey across the endless hills and fields of central and eastern China.

For those who fly the distance — a trip that takes just three and a half hours — the contrast between the former imperial powerhouse and the upstart territory is likely to be sharper.

Take-off from Beijing offers a view of a patchwork of fields and scattered factories typical of semi-rural northern China, but landing in Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport drops the traveller into a vastly different world.

Arriving aeroplanes bank past an extraordinarily congested urban landscape, bristling with skyscrapers, to fly low across crowded apartment blocks and bump down on a runway that juts out on land reclaimed from the deepwater harbour.

New airport for a city of civil engineering marvels

From 1998, flights will arrive at Hong Kong's new Chek Lap Kok airport, but passengers denied one of the world's most exhilarating and hair-raising approaches will be able to admire the territory's civil engineering skills as they travel along high-speed road and rail links into the city.

More than 150 years of British colonial rule have transformed Hong Kong from a quiet rural island and peninsula into a high-

rise city of modern architecture, bridges, tunnels and flyovers.

For visitors from Beijing, Hong Kong's transport network can be a powerful reminder of the development needed in the capital of the world's most populous nation.

The underground railway is fast, efficient and profitable: a far cry from Beijing's dirty and overlaid system, where expansion seems stalled and managers struggle to stretch ticket income. Queuing is calm where in Beijing it would be chaotic.

Hong Kong's 6.4 million people themselves could offer a few surprises to mainland officials. Far from being cowed by their colonial past, they have a strong reputation for being tough, resourceful and independent-minded.

Where Beijing residents have been wary of politics since the army crushed pro-democracy protests on its streets in 1989, Hong Kong has developed a vigorous and vocal political life.

News-stands are a riot of colour, with more than 50 daily newspapers and hundreds of periodicals available.

In Beijing, political news and comment is the preserve of stuffy official newspapers like the Communist Party-run People's Daily, but in Hong Kong even an independent newspaper named the *Mad Dog* daily has attracted a dedicated following.

Colourful clothes and cars

The stress put on success by many Hong Kong residents seems as clear from their dress — brand names predominate — as their driving habits — expensive cars are everywhere. The territory famously boasts the highest number of Rolls Royce cars per person in the world.

People live life at a faster pace, from mini-bus drivers revving their engines at traffic lights to commuters impatiently jabbing at the

door-closing buttons of office elevators.

In Hong Kong, history appears only an afterthought, not because it once came under conscious attack from a reforming government, as was the case in Beijing, but because the free-wheeling economy puts little price on the past.

Government house, home to governors dispatched by London to rule Britain's greatest east Asian treasure, is a luxurious mansion at the heart of the city — but it

cannot compare with the Forbidden City palace of Beijing's former emperors.

While skyscrapers hang over the residence of the 28th and last Governor Chris Patten, tall buildings are barred for hocks around the Forbidden City and its modern equivalent, the Zhongnanhai compound of China's senior leaders.

Income gap

Beijing was long one of

the richest and grandest cities in China, but incomes in the capital have been left far behind by those in Hong Kong, where per capita gross national product is now even higher than in colonial mother country Britain.

Hong Kong was a largely forgotten outpost of the Chinese Empire until it was wrested away by British might in the opium wars of the 19th century, and a tinge of resentment and envy colours the feelings of pride

some northerners feel as the handover looms.

"To tell you the truth I don't like Hong Kong people... They are arrogant," said one otherwise amiable Beijinger who works for a sales company in the territory.

Similar accusations are traded by some Hong Kong residents, who see their northern cousins as overly proud of their cultural sophistication.

For all the remaining differences between the two

cities, the gap between life in the north and the south appears to be narrowing. Air-conditioned and marble-clad shopping centres are sprouting in Beijing as they have for decades in Hong Kong, while the luxury cars of the capital's elite are edging aside the armies of cyclists that once ruled its roads.

Traditional courtyard homes are being flattened as residents are resettled in high rises cloned on Hong Kong's, and the traditional

Chinese characters used by the territory find ever greater favour in Beijing.

But one common Hong Kong sight can only bring wistful sighs from northern visitors.

Parents with two or more children seem everywhere and are a bitter reminder of the costs China's population pressure exacts from Beijing's people — a strict family planning policy that limits every urban couple to only one child.



Commercial high-rise buildings mushroom in Beijing behind a socialist sculpture of proletarian heroes holding up a flag and communist star. Countless high-class housing projects and marble-clad, air-conditioned shopping centres have narrowed the lifestyle gap between communist Beijing and the southern harbour city of Hong Kong, which returns in China on July 1, but visitors from the northern capital are still likely to feel the two cities are worlds apart (Reuter photo)

Majali demands Lloyds Register stop inspecting Jordan-bound goods at Aqaba

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali called upon Lloyds Register to stop its inspection of Jordan-bound goods in Aqaba and to inspect Iraqi-bound shipments inside Iraqi borders rather than in Aqaba as has been the practice imposed by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Speaking to the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA) on Saturday, Dr. Majali said "Lloyds is still inspecting the entrance of goods to Jordan. We request, at least, the removal of this obstacle from our path in Aqaba. This inspection should come to an end."

The premier said that following the oil-for-food agreement, reached last December between the United Nations and Iraq, inspection of Iraq-bound goods should be conducted within Iraqi territories and not in Aqaba. Dr. Majali added that the in-country inspection would ensure that banned items do not enter Iraq.

This is the first time officials have publicly commented on the inspection procedures after several complaints have been lodged by the Jordanian business community which finds the inspections a major trade impediment.

Lloyds activities in

Aqaba replaced a U.S.-spearheaded maritime inspection imposed following Iraq's seven month-old occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

The Jordan Clearance Association said that Lloyds' inspection is not restricted to Iraq-bound goods but also covers goods imported into the Kingdom for local consumption. According to the association, the inspections result in financial losses and delays in delivery of goods.

Dr. Majali did not indicate if Jordan will submit an official demand to the U.N. to stop the Lloyds activities in the Kingdom or whether it will ask the firm to halt its activities.

The Prime Minister hinted, in his first encounter with JBA members since he assumed office on March 19, the Kingdom was ready to reconsider increasing a \$255 million trade protocol with its eastern neighbour, "when the two sides finalise discussion on this issue thoroughly and reach an agreement."

"As a result of joint talks that have been taking place between the two sides on the trade protocol, Jordan is ready to extend the maximum assistance to Iraq provided that this matter will not bring any political harm or cause any further strains to the Kingdom," Dr. Majali said.

Earlier this year, Jordan and Iraq agreed to raise the trade protocol by \$50 million. The protocol envisages supplying Baghdad with food, medicine and other humanitarian aid permitted under the U.N. sanctions.

Dr. Majali added that Jordanian-Iraqi relations are "stable and moving ahead. We are with our Iraqi brethren... and we want the (U.N.) sanctions to come to an end." Dr. Majali said adding that Jordan "will not interfere in Iraq's domestic policy. And we don't want anybody to interfere in our affairs."

The premier blamed "some Jordanian industrialists" for exporting low quality products to Iraq and described their action as "exploiting Iraq's present circumstances to gain high profits."

"Iraqi officials have complained about some Jordanian manufacturers, whom I don't want to name, who export low quality products to Iraq. They (Iraqi officials) said that if the sanctions were not imposed on their country, they would have sued many Jordanian firms for these actions," Dr. Majali said. "We should not exploit Iraq and this matter should come to an end," the prime minister stressed.

Dr. Majali also told the businessmen that Jordan will proceed with the pri-

vatization process in certain sectors and added that Jordan will witness more steps in this regard. He said the government will adopt necessary laws to encourage foreign investments and remove all obstacles which impede foreign investments.

Hamdi Tabaa, JBA chairman and a fierce critic of normalisation with Israel, complained that despite the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, "Israel is still procrastinating and escapes from implementing political and economic commitments it has undertaken with Jordan as well as Palestine whether in trade or in transportation."

"Israel is still impeding the flow of Jordanian goods to Palestinian territories which are considered a natural extension of the Jordanian market and insists on monopolising the Palestinian market," Mr. Tabaa said.

A former trade and industry minister, Mr. Tabaa said Israel's position "requires reviewing and correction of choices we have, including concentrating on expanding our relations with Arab neighbours."

Dr. Majali responded by saying that Jordan "will continue in pushing (Israel) to open its gates and removing all administrative and security obstacles to trade exchange," with the Palestinians.

Committee specifies area, outlines framework for free zone at Aqaba

By Abdul Rahman Thuneibat
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — In preparation for transforming the Aqaba region into a free trade zone, the government has decided on the boundaries of this region to be from Al Durra in the south until the Aqaba airport in the north and from the sea to the west and until the Al Maqass near the entrance of Aqaba on the east.

The announcement was made by Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani who said at a press briefing that the decision was taken upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and a recom-

mendation by the previous government.

Speaking at a meeting by the ministerial committee, formed to develop the Aqaba region with the Aqaba Region Authority, Dr. Anani said that agreement at the meeting was reached in terms of reference which companies wishing to invest in the Aqaba zone have to abide by, adding that such companies should prove their eligibility economically to earn consent for setting up businesses in the zone. He noted that the choice of these companies will take place within seven months.

Dr. Anani said that a Jordanian team with suf-

ficient experience in investment fields will be formed to discuss investment issues with the chosen companies. Furthermore, he said, agreement has been reached to give the Aqaba Region Authority further powers to handle such issues as taxes and to activate the commercial centres in Aqaba.

He said the ministerial committee has given its consent to open consulates in Aqaba for all embassies in Jordan in order to facilitate foreign investors tasks and to save them time and effort and has also endorsed a plan for the establishment of the American University of Jordan on a

plot of land located seven kilometres south of the port city. He said the new university will accommodate up to 20,000 students.

Dr. Anani further noted that the committee will study a request by a company to make investments in the northern beach to promote tourism industry where \$300 million are expected to be invested. He said transforming Aqaba into a free trade zone will have a very positive effect on Jordanian economy, adding that the government is currently studying legislation to cater to these new developments.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 18/05/97 18:20

Currency	US Dollar	DE Mark	GB Sterling	CH Franc	JP Yen	CA Dollar	IT Lira	NL Guilder	FR Franc
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5820	0.8112	1.4150	115.70	1.3712	1668.12	1.9025	6.9775
DE Mark	0.6310	1.0000	0.6362	0.8337	0.0068	0.8068	1.3640	1.1242	3.3662
GB Sterling	1.2453	1.5820	1.0000	1.4150	115.70	1.3712	1668.12	1.9025	6.9775
CH Franc	0.7067	1.0811	0.8514	1.2210	0.0089	0.8609	1.3705	1.1242	3.3662
JP Yen	0.0088	1.4811	0.8275	1.2210	1.0000	1.1841	14.41	164.29	4.9201
CA Dollar	0.7293	1.2338	0.8485	1.0519	1.18	1.0000	1.218.10	1.3870	4.1638
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0138	0.8360	0.8048	1443.83	0.8216	1.0000	1.140	3.4138
NL Guilder	0.5254	0.8851	0.8310	1.0172	60.78	0.7205	0.7837	1.0000	2.9840
FR Franc	0.1755	0.2370	0.1072	24.8333	20.29	0.2406	33.38	33.3900	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	US Dollar	Jordan Dinar	GB Sterling	Bahraini Dinar	Omani Dinar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Emirati Dinar	Lebanese L1000	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	0.7505	0.3770	0.4402	0.3023	0.6728	1538.00	3.3850
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	0.5328	0.1415	0.4288	0.1875	0.2722	2172.32	4.7611
GB Sterling	0.2688	0.1384	1.0000	0.37	0.4806	0.38	0.4108	0.8025	0.8025
Bahraini Dinar	2.55	1.8781	0.3491	1.0000	0.86	0.8018	0.74	4078.50	8.9795
Omani Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303	1.0303	1.0000	1.01	422.50	0.8288	0.8288
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3665	2.3454	0.4086	1.5672	1.24	1.218	6088.30	0.8288	0.8288
Emirati Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0186	0.9911	0.9923	414.75	0.8216	0.8216
Lebanese L1000	0.65	0.4802	2.4384	0.3481	1.2684	0.1965	2.3800	1.0000	2.2009
Egyptian Pound	0.2854	0.2092	1.1080	0.1114	0.7054	0.0983	1.0850	454.36	1.0000

Energy

Currency	Brent	WTI	Bonny	Dubai	UL Gas
Brent	20.85	19.80			
WTI	0.6	21.35			
Bonny	20.85	19.80			
Dubai	18.50	18.50			
UL Gas	190.00	190.00			

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	SA Riyal	AE Dirham	KW Dinar	BH Dinar	CY Pound
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4514	0.16298	0.37754	30.8786
AE Dirham	0.2725	0.46084	0.16945	0.38383	31.5288
KW Dinar	3.3085	5.80224	2.02224	4.88384	38.1142
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.49036	1.62183	3.70457	30.722
CY Pound	1.9786	3.3483	1.2092	2.801	229.028

Metal Prices

Currency	Gold (oz)	Silver (oz)	Platinum (oz)	AL (3 Months)	CU (3 Months)	Zinc (3 Months)	Lead (3 Months)	Ni (3 Months)
Gold (oz)	344.3	344.3						
Silver (oz)	4.6	4.7						
Platinum (oz)	391.45	382.45						
AL (3 Months)	1687	1670						
CU (3 Months)	2470	2475						
Zinc (3 Months)	1344	1348						
Lead (3 Months)	827	831						
Ni (3 Months)	7810	7840						

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Currency	USD	GBP	JPY	DEM	FRF	CHF	ITL
USD	5.59	5.53	5.57	5.02	6.15		
GBP	5.19	6.25	6.30	6.89	6.81		
JPY	0.46	0.53	0.58	0.88	0.75		
DEM	2.86	2.85	3.00	3.57	3.34		
FRF	3.20	3.32	3.38	3.40	3.43		
CHF	1.37	1.45	1.56	1.62	1.62		
ITL	6.79	6.89	6.83	6.52	6.49		

Main Equity Indices

Index	New York	DOW JONES	FTSE 100	Nikkei 225	CAC 40	DAX
New York	7194.87	-138.88	-1.89	7329.01	7190.55	7333.55
DOW JONES	829.75	-12.13	-1.44	841.88	829.75	841.88
FTSE 100	4883.9	12.7	0.27	4723.7	4886.7	4881.2
Nikkei 225	20324.73	268.42	1.34	20347.5	20086.3	20086.3
CAC 40	2784.28	8.27	0.3	2804.51	2771.69	2778.01
DAX	3804.55	42.44	-1.10	3806.21	3806.21	3802.11

Energy

Currency	Coffee (c/lb)	Cocoa (c/lb)	Sugar (c/lb)	Wheat (c/lb)	Soya (c/lb)	Tea (c/lb)	Barley (c/lb)	Rice (c/lb)
Coffee (c/lb)	278	Spot						
Cocoa (c/lb)	1484	Spot						
Sugar (c/lb)	322.8	Spot						
Wheat (c/lb)	168	Spot						
Soya (c/lb)	23.72	Spot						
Tea (c/lb)	157	Spot						
Barley (c/lb)	0	Spot						
Rice (c/lb)	460	Spot						

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	US Dollar	GB Sterling	DE Mark	CH Franc	JP Yen	FR Franc	NL Guilder	IT Lira
US Dollar	0.708	0.710						
GB Sterling	1.1972	1.145						
DE Mark	0.4178	0.42						
CH Franc	0.4097	0.5022						
JP Yen	0.1242	0.1248						
FR Franc	0.8111	0.8142						
NL Guilder	0.3717	0.3736						
IT Lira	0.6239	0.625						

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

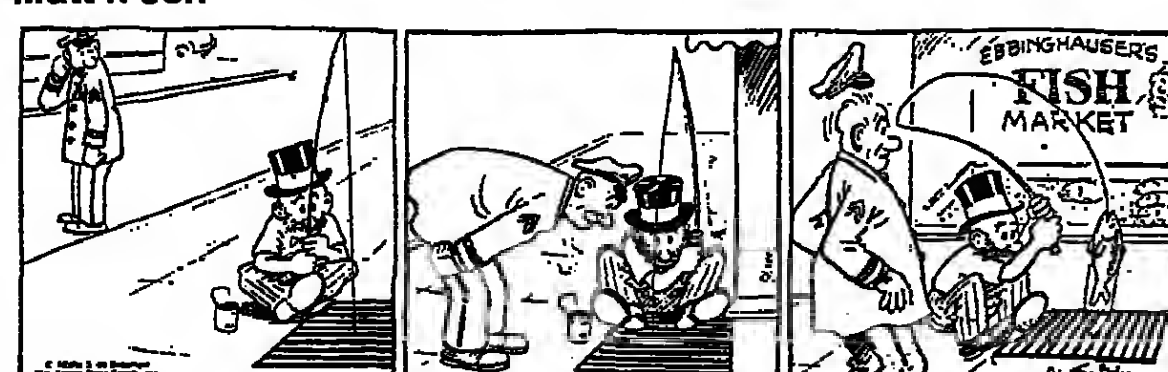
Peanuts



Andy Capp

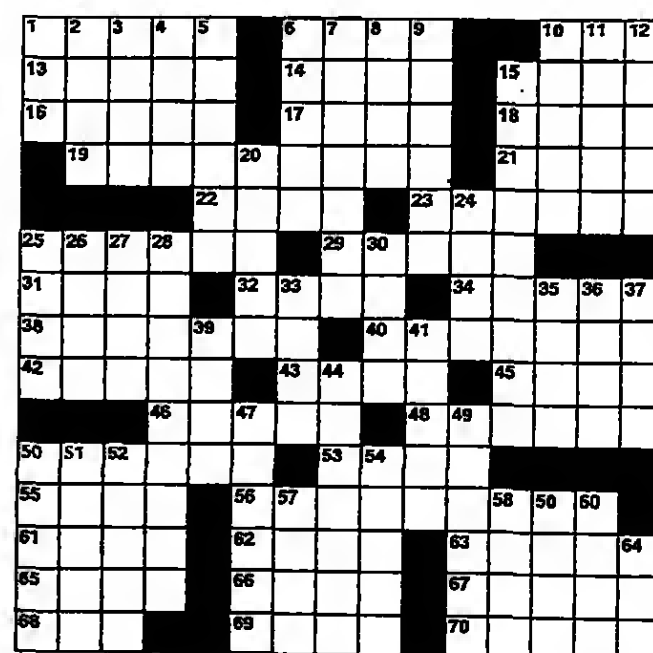


Mutt'n' Jeff



ACROSS

- Opposite in character
- Electrical units
- Mischiefvous spite
- Italian statesman, Balbo
- Noose
- Native American
- Central ideas
- Swan genus
- Sword handle
- Petty trickery
- It's clear to me
- Unrefined minerals
- Engraver
- Mime Marceau
- firma
- Colorful fish
- Not difficult
- Greek marketplace
- Provisions
- Make over
- Upright
- Wedding cake layer, e.g.
- Verdi opera
- Sacred book of Islam
- Star of "Gunsmoke"
- Gratify
- Cast a ballot
- "Lang Syne"
- Perennial herbs
- Nastase of tennis
- Speck
- Blundered
- Stringed instrument
- Find
- Valuable violin
- Comp. pt.
- Icelandic work
- Lama



by Dorothy B. Martin

DOWN

- Gourmand
- Of the ear
- Frog
- High: pref.
- Pistol

ACROSS

- By oneself
- Bothers
- Needy
- More active
- Dublin's language
- Ruckus
- Newsman
- Jennings
- "Windy City" native
- Senator Specter
- Streetcar
- Greater quantity
- Armadillo
- Appraise
- Small bird
- "Jane —"
- Nora's dog
- Garfield's playmate
- Some colors
- Woe is me!
- Sioux Indians
- Muse of poetry

DOWN

- Enticed
- Cook's item
- Peruse again
- Buckets
- Humdingers
- Cream of the crop

ACROSS

- Florida city
- Did a garden chore
- "— la Douce"
- Of an epoch
- Bristle
- 502

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 19, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can make great progress in whatever you are engaged in during the daytime today, be it indoors or out of doors with a knowledgeable individual.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to get your appearance improved today and later this evening you can enjoy the pleasures which you like the most.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to get your dwelling more charming today, and everything operating efficiently there, but get at it at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into the bustling world of activity early today and make the right contacts you desire. You can take care of transportation matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whittle down those ideas which are nonetheless sensible at this time and you can add appreciably to your income which you desire.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can easily see what it is you want at this time and go after it in a most positive and sure manner, and you can gain it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have very personal affairs to take care of today, so put aside business matters for a while. The evening should be spent with your loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Know what it is you subconsciously desire at this time and then contact those who can assist you to gain your aims for success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are many career activities for you to perform which require your full attention, so be fast and accurate and you will prosper.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be sure to plan an important trip wisely so that you can get the finest results from your endeavour with close friends and loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day today to get caught up on bookkeeping, make out bills and to collect any sum of money which is owed to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a fine day today for talking over plans made with outside fellow associates and come to a true meeting of minds for your success.

Birthstone of May:
Emerald — Citrine

Save
water!
Every
drop
counts...

Saudi prince enters Jordanian mining venture in Dead Sea

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi billionaire and financier Prince Al Walid Bin Talal announced Sunday his participation in a \$43 million Jordanian company that will extract minerals from the Dead Sea.

Prince Al Walid signed a new agreement whereby he becomes a founder shareholder in the Jordan Magnesia Company, whose capital is \$43 million, said the prince's office in a press release.

The statement did not indicate the amount of Prince Walid's investment in the mineral company.

The other shareholders

include Jordanian companies, Dead Sea Industries Co., Arab Potash Co., Jordan Investment Corp., the Arab Bank and the Social Security Fund, said the chairman of the Jordan Magnesia Company, Talal Erikat, in the same statement.

"The company is expected to start production, which relies on minerals extracted from the Dead Sea, at the end of 1999. The project capacity will cover five per cent of the world market for magnesium oxide," he added.

It is the third investment in Jordan by Prince Walid, a

nephew of King Fahd, after his participation in the Mediterranean Tourism Co., which will run the Amman Four Seasons Hotel under development, and the Philadelphia Investment Bank.

Prince Walid, 40, has built a global financial empire around his Riyadh-based Kingdom Holding Company, by investing mainly in high-profile market companies going through difficulties. His portfolio includes stakes in Apple Computer, Citicorp Bank, retailer Saks Fifth Avenue, London real estate development Canary Wharf, and the restaurant

chain Planet Hollywood.

He also owns shares of the luxury cruise company Norwegian Cruise Lines, Italy's Mediaset Commercial Television, the Arab Satellite Television Art and the British group Cordiant, the parent company of advertisers Saatchi and Saatchi.

In 1996, he added the prestigious Hotel Georges V, in the heart of Paris, to a collection of hotels he owns in part or in full in the United States, Europe and the Middle East, including the Four Seasons Regent and Fairmont chains, the Plaza Hotel in New York and the Copley Plaza of Boston.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 18/05/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV. %	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE
269.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.53	3	15660	262.00	261.00	1.00	0.38	0.38
2.100	1.600	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	17	6053	10881	1.81	1.79	0.02	0.02
5.500	4.100	CAIRO ARAB BANK	10.4	3.98	3	21580	10881	4.80	3.80	1.00	2.61
3.600	2.700	BANK OF JORDAN	10.9	0.00	5	1470	4440	3.05	3.02	0.03	0.03
1.210	880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	69.0	0.00	5	3150	3308	1.00	1.05	0.05	0.05
2.480	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	7.62	10	7308	1733	2.25	2.22	0.03	0.03
5.100	4.350	THE HOUSING BK.	14.6	3.96	24	5421	26306	4.75	4.90	0.15	0.15
2.950	2.440	JOR. KOWALY BANK	19.0	0.00	16	14936	39079	2.62	2.62	0.00	0.00
1.080	790	JOR. GULF BANK	4.8	8.64	5	5300	5365	81	81	0.00	0.00
4.050	3.480	JOR. ATLANTIC BANK	16.8	3.20	16	9541	34919	3.70	3.64	0.06	0.06
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	20.4	0.00	2	333	1056	3.17	3.17	0.00	0.00
2.850	1.000	HEAVY AL-HAL (BRITISH)	15.0	15.00	2	400	400	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 196.43 %CHG: -0.12											
2.410	1.700	JOR. FRANCE INSUR.	4.8	11.83	3	2800	4732	1.70	1.69	0.01	0.01
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.48 %CHG: -0.06											
1.820	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.03	16	6072	10108	1.68	1.66	0.02	0.02
5.500	4.100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	22.6	2.25	2	350	1995	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00
2.550	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	13.7	6.58	1	1000	2350	2.26	2.25	0.01	0.01
1.490	1.930	JOBS PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	18	10500	11468	1.11	1.08	0.03	0.03
2.200	1.170	MID. EAST HOTELS	20.3	0.00	17	5650	7486	1.35	1.32	0.03	0.03
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	7.9	6.59	13	2600	4330	1.66	1.67	0.01	0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.63 %CHG: +0.70											
1.250	930	ATTACHOR	9	0.00	1	500	800	1.05	1.00	0.05	0.05
3.800	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	12.5	2.89	3	2658	10370	4.80	3.80	1.00	2.61
3.500	2.710	JOR. FERTILIZER INDUS.	9.4	2.94	14	7500	25643	3.43	3.40	0.03	0.03
6.320	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.7	3.17	19	6250	51975	6.33	6.30	0.03	0.03
10.480	8.720	JOR. FERTIL. INDUST.	9.1	9.42	10	1400	1333	9.36	9.38	0.02	0.02
1.510	1.150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	56.0	0.00	1	200	355	1.35	1.28	0.07	0.07
3.360	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	9	0.00	1	380	738	1.96	1.94	0.02	0.02
3.980	3.040	ARAB PAPER IND.	10.1	5.45	27	6927	25599	3.69	3.66	0.03	0.03
7.250	5.650	JOR. CEMENT IND.	7.2	2.84	1	50	113	2.35	2.35	0.00	0.00
2.870	2.050	JORDAN DAIRY	7.6	10.86	1	50	113	2.35	2.35	0.00	0.00
3.100	1.410	JOR. PAPER INDUST.	17.5	5.47	2	390	548	1.41	1.41	0.00	0.00
3.600	2.860	JOR. PAPER CARD.	15.8	0.00	2	650	1820	2.86	3.00	0.14	0.14
5.910	4.280	BAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	11.5	5.33	3	638	3006	4.72	4.69	0.03	0.03
1.860	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.8	0.00	39	60150	30954	5.51	5.51	0.00	0.00
1.310	1.050	ARAB PAPER IND. TRD.	32.4	0.00	1	1500	1590	1.08	1.06	0.02	0.02
1.870	1.540	NATIONAL INDUS.	8.3	10.71	8	4763	2667	5.56	5.56	0.00	0.00
1.540	1.050	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	250	180	1.72	1.72	0.00	0.00
1.710	1.170	JOR. CABLE WIRE. MFG.	16.7	0.00	1	100	374	3.88	2.74	1.14	1.14
1.670	1.120	ARAB PAPER IND.	16.0	4.96	18	6300	8922	1.43	1.41	0.02	0.02
2.560	1.410	UNIV. MOTH. INDUS.	9	0.00	33	8250	13365	1.54	1.49	0.05	0.05
1.730	1.130	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	15.6	8.62	7	5400	6266	1.17	1.16	0.01	0.01
1.230	840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	35	16500	14413	1.08	1.07	0.01	0.01
2.750	1.650	EL-DAY READY WEAR	9	0.00	10	7308	11975	1.66	1.63	0.03	0.03
1.230	1.040	INTL. TOBACCO	37.8	0.00	2	500	590	1.17	1.18	0.01	0.01
1.380	860	UNION CR. & VED.	38.5	0.00	1	200	180	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 120.91 %CHG: -0.50											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 156.28 %CHG: -0.23											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 18/05/1997											
790	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	13.3	0.00	8	20000	9300	4.66	4.66	0.00	0.00
840	660	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	11	17750	3018	6.7	6.7	0.00	0.00
810	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	34	54350	26091	4.7	4.7	0.00	0.00
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. 75%	9	0.00	4	1750	888	1.77	1.77	0.00	0.00
950	610	AL-DAMRIYAN 75%	14.5	0.00	2	500	195	6.3	6.4	0.1	0.1
640	200	JOR. INDUS. MACHS-VEHCO	9	0.00	1	800	120	24	24	0.00	0.00
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	3	2150	1304	57	56	0.01	0.01
690	430	ARAB TEXT. INV. TRD.	54.1	0.00	27	51150	33886	4.6	4.7	0.1	0.1
720	490	KATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	7	3300	1627	50	50	0.00	0.00
810	400	KATL. MACHS. INDUS.	9	0.00	44	95950	56132	57	56	0.01	0.01
970	710	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	13	41350	39472	72	72	0.00	0.00
630	430	ARAB SELECT. INDUS.	9	0.00	1	350	175	50	50	0.00	0.00
730	600	KIDNEY PEARL. 75%	9	0.00	2	800	200	65	65	0.00	0.00
1.280	860	UNION TORACCO 75%	9	0.00	14	36000	16098	87	87	0.00	0.00
770	530	KATL. PHARM. 65%	9	0.00	6	6600	1680	60	60	0.00	0.00
390	250	UNION TRD. 43%	9	0.00	8	1517	43	43	43	0.00	0.00
950	780	INDUS. CERAMIC	21.5	0.00	20	12350	10068	80	83	0.02	0.02
630	590	KATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	11	7390	4816	64	66	0.02	0.02
1.000	810	REV. AL-DAMRIYAN 75%	9	0.00	12	7800	4375	83	83	0.00	0.00
870	530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	9	4000	3640	66	66	0.00	0.00
GRAND TOTAL 337 357390 193470											

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

National Chlorine Industries Company generates JD1.5m gross profit

THE NATIONAL Chlorine Industries Company generated a gross profit of JD1.5 million as its total sales amounted to JD3.5 million and operational costs stood at JD2.0 million. After taking other administrative and selling costs into consideration, the company reported a net profit of JD779,000. Out of this amount, the general assembly approved the recommendations of the board of directors to distribute JD504,000 in cash dividends at a rate of seven per cent.

Board Chairman Mohammad Yousef Al Taher told the shareholders that the productivity of the plants for the whole of 1996 was 83 per cent of the production capacity. "Although it was an excellent achievement in the first year of operations," Mr. Taher indicated, "production could have been higher had it not been for the fluctuations in the consumption of caustic soda." Sales of caustic soda in the local market accounted for 56 per cent of the sales. The remainder was exported to Iraq.

The sales of the company last year were 165,660 tonnes of caustic soda (32 per cent concentration), 3,277 tonnes of chlorine, 4,184 tonnes of hydrochloric acid (32 per cent concentration) and 2,129 tonnes of sodium hypochlorite. The company's local sales of chlorine accounted for 37 per cent of the sales, most of which (63 per cent) was exported. Most of the sales of hydrochloric acid went to Syria and only 32 per cent of the sales was absorbed in the Jordanian market. The third product, sodium hypochlorite, had a higher percentage of sales in the local market which took 62 per cent leaving 38 per cent to clients in Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The chairman said the company is considering the possibility of raising the capacity of the plants by 50 per cent in cooperation with German consultants. He expected limited growth in local sales in 1997 and, as such, the company will focus on opening wider export markets in Iraq and Syria.

According to the annual report, the company had JD12.8 million in total assets at the end of last year, 2.5 per cent higher than the total at the end of 1995. Shareholders' equity also registered a 2.7 per cent growth to reach JD8.78 million. Most of the assets are fixed assets which account for 88 per cent of total assets, or JD11.4 million (Al Ra'i + Al Dostour + Al Aswaj).

Large industrial fair to be held next week

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to expand their markets, more than 140 local manufacturers will display their products at the Amman Chamber of Industry's third annual trade fair.

The event, to be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, will begin May 27 and continue until June 2 at the Amman International Trade Fair in Marj Al Hamam.

According to Amman Chamber of Industry Chairman Khaldoun Abu Hassan, statistics show that the country's industrial sector accounted for 19 per cent of its gross national product in 1995.

The first half of 1996 witnessed a market increase in the Kingdom's industrial activities, with Jordanian exports of industrial products amounting to JD 365 million as compared to JD337 million during the same period in 1995, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

Today, Jordan's industries employ more than 150,000 people.

Mr. Abu Hassan told the Jordan Times that the industrial sector is improving annually and that such exhibitions can open up new markets to the country's products and thus aid in the development of this sector.

TRC awards first contract for pay phones

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunication Regulatory Corporation (TRC) and the Trans Jordan Company for Telecommunication Services Sunday signed an agreement for installing public pay phones in various parts of the Kingdom.

Under the agreement, the company will install public pay phones and provide public telephone service to the public within a specific period of time.

Trans Jordan has won a contract for installing the public pay phones. The Company offered the lowest prices.

The agreement was signed for the TRC by its Director General Yousef Abu Jamous, while it was signed for the company by director of the board, Ziad Abu Jaber, and representative of the Greek partner Michel Economou.

A similar agreement will be signed next month with Alpha International Company, who in addition to Trans Jordan will provide the public pay telephone service to the public in their different areas at very competitive rates.



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Silver Charm wins Preakness and Triple Crown shot

BALTIMORE (R) — Silver Charm became the first horse in eight years to win the first two jewels of the Triple Crown, nosing out Free House in a photo finish Saturday to win the 122nd running of the Preakness Stakes.

Captain Bodgit finished third.

Silver Charm, with Gary Stevens up, crossed the finish line at 1:54 and 4/5 seconds, more than a second off the stakes record time that was established by Tank's Prospect in 1985 and equaled last year by Louis Quatorze.

Stevens won his first Preakness Stakes in nine attempts.

Silver Charm will set his sights on the Belmont Stakes, on June 7th. There has not been a Triple Crown winner since affirmed in 1978.

"I'm numb," said Silver Charm's trainer, Bob Baffert, adding, "Maybe Free House and Captain Bodgit won't enter so we can win the triple crown."

Silver Charm, which has won five of its eight starts, became the 26th horse to win the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, and the first since Sunday Silence accomplished the feat in 1989. Eleven horses have gone on to win the Triple Crown.

In a breathtaking finish that surpassed the drama of the Kentucky Derby two weeks ago, Silver Charm stalked Free House almost the entire backstretch and stretch run before jockey Gary Stevens was able to get the head of Silver Charm up and bobbing ahead of Free House.

Silver Charm paid \$8.20, \$4.00 and \$2.60 while Free House earned back \$3.60 and \$2.60.

Captain Bodgit paid \$2.40 to show. Touch Gold finished fourth, followed by Frisk Me Now, Concerto, Hoxie, Wild Tempest, Cryp Too and Jack At The Bank.

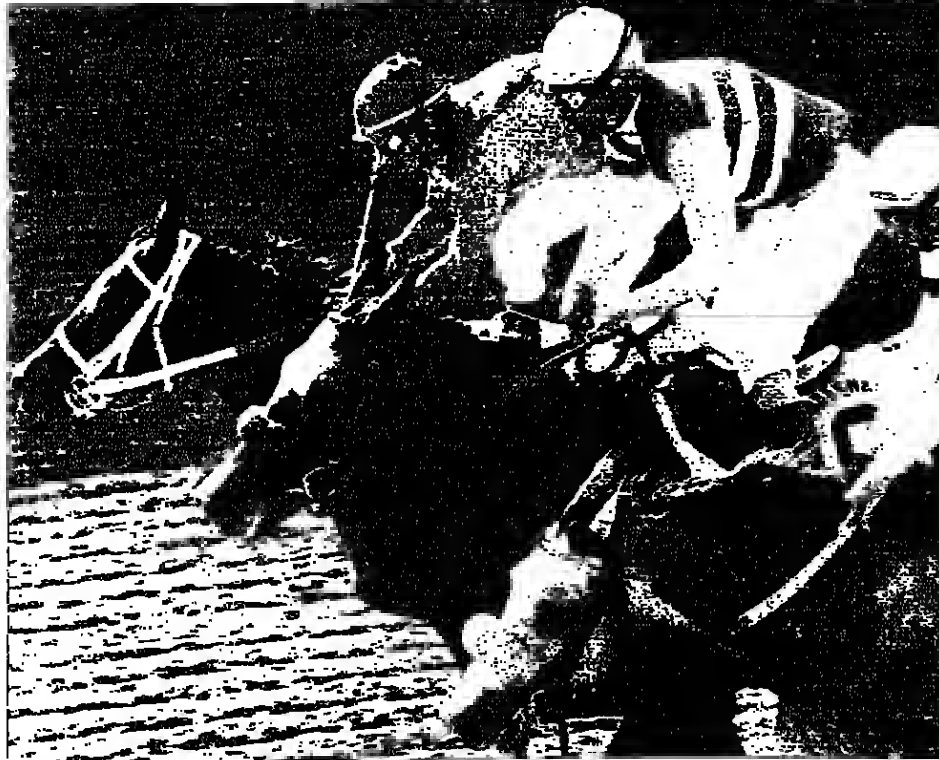
The start of the race was delayed nearly five minutes as Cryp Too bucked and refused to enter the gate despite being blindfolded.

Eventually, after making the horse circle a few times, Cryp Too finally entered.

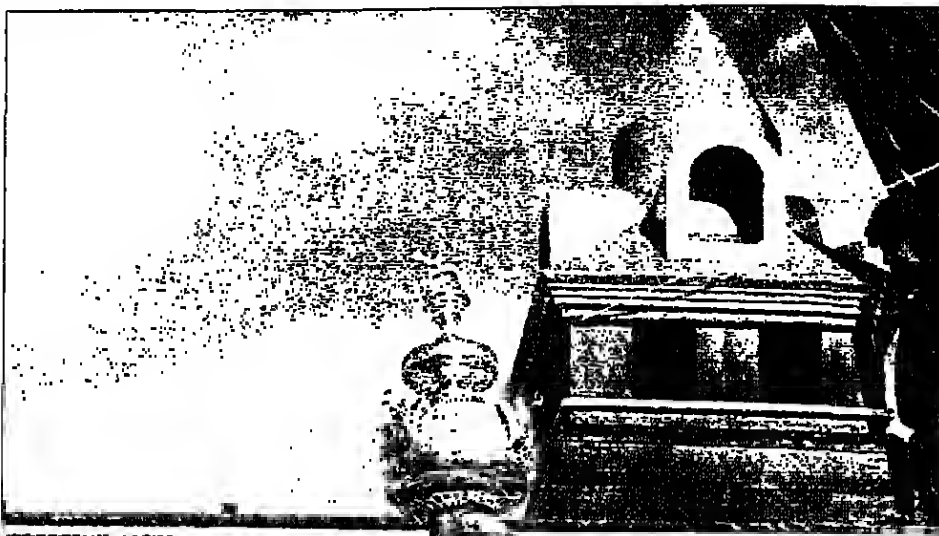
While Silver Charm broke from the gate cleanly, Touch Gold didn't as it stumbled and almost fell forward. Cryp Too used all its nervous energy to bolt from the gate and take the early lead as it ran the first quarter-mile in 22 4/5 seconds.

"I wanted to follow somebody, so I followed Chris McCarron (Touch Gold's jockey)," said Stevens about the start. "I got him in the clear and he's such a warrior."

But that energy faded shortly after the half-mile and Free House assumed



Silver Charm (C) crosses the finish line ahead of second placed Free House (R) and third placed Captain Bodgit (L) to win the 122nd Preakness Stakes. Silver Charm has a shot at the Triple Crown, when the Belmont Stakes is run June 7 (Reuters photo)



Robert Baffert, trainer for Preakness Stakes winner Silver Charm (L) poses with the trophy May 17 with co-owners Beverly Lewis (R) and her husband Robert Lewis behind her. Kentucky Derby winner Silver Charm now goes on to the Belmont Stakes for a shot at the final jewel in the Triple Crown (Reuters photo)

the lead. Stevens remained patient and kept pace.

Wild Tempest made a brief charge on the backstretch, but on the turn, Silver Charm and Free

House were nearly even.

Concerto made a dash to the inside on the turn, but was cut off from better position by free house. After that, Free House

valiantly tried to hold off Silver Charm down the stretch run. As the two battled side by side, Captain Bodgit made a strong push to finish third.

Nantes climb into European Cup berth

PARIS (R) — Nantes snatched the initiative from Paris St Germain in the race for France's second European Cup berth on Saturday with just one game to go. Extending their unbeaten run to 30 games, Nantes won 3-0 at home to Montpellier as PSG crashed 1-0 away to arch-enemies Marseille three days after their European Cup Winners' Cup final defeat by Barcelona.

Tunisian Adel Sellimi. Chad's Japhet N'Doram with his 21st goal of the season and defender Bruno Carotti scored as Nantes overtook PSG, who started the season favourites for the title, on goal difference.

"For once, the team were simply effective," Nantes coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau, whose side went a record 32 games unbeaten when they succeeded PSG as champions in 1995, said.

"What's remarkable is to have played 30 matches without losing. Quite apart from second place, that's formidable... We've already gone a lot further than we hoped." Nantes did not win in their opening 10 matches, although the unbeaten run began from the seventh. N'Doram said: "This match is the evidence that the team have changed a lot in a few months... Whatever happens after the last day, we must retain the memory of where we were 31 matches ago."

Midfielder Eric Roy scored the only goal at the Velodrome, a 38th-minute penalty, as former European champions Marseille extended their 1990s hegemony over the Parisians in their first league meeting at their home

ground since 1993.

Marseille, who held PSG 0-0 in Paris in November, won five and drew three of the bitter enemies' eight league meetings between the 1990-1 season and the Mediterranean side's relegation in 1994.

PSG came close to equalising on several occasions in the dying minutes with strikers Patrice Loko and Cyrille Pouget both shooting just wide and defender Paul Le Guen having a fine header well saved by Germany goalkeeper Andreas Koepke.

Monaco, already crowned champions, are now 12 points ahead of Nantes and PSG after their 3-1 win at Nancy with goals from midfielders Enzo Scifo, Ali Benarbia and Sylvain Legwinski.

Bordeaux retained fourth place with a 2-2 draw at home against Lyon and virtually secured their UEFA Cup place.

With Rennes drawing 1-1 at home against Guingamp to ensure first division survival, the relegation issue was settled on the penultimate day, Nancy going down with Lille, who drew 2-2 with Le Havre. Caen and Nice, who both won 3-0.

French Cup winners Nice, whose Liberian striker James Debbah converted two penalties, picked up only their fifth league win of the season at home to Metz, who managed to cling onto their UEFA Cup place only because outgoing champions Auxerre lost 2-1 at Bastia.

Braves beat Cardinals 11-6; Cubs lose

ATLANTA (R) — John Smoltz came back from the flu to win his third straight game, and Kenny Lofton went 5-for-5 with two RBI to power the Atlanta Braves to an 11-6 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday.

Smoltz pitched five scoreless innings before allowing solo homers to Micah Franklin and Ron Gant in the sixth. The 1996 Cy Young award winner gave up five hits in seven innings with no walks and seven strikeouts.

"I wouldn't say I had great stuff but I kept them off balance and threw strikes," said Smoltz, who also contributed two hits, raising his average to .435 and scored a run.

In Chicago, Mark Gardner allowed one run over eight innings and Rick Wilkins and Jeff Kent added two-run homers to lift the San Francisco Giants past the Chicago Cubs 4-1.

Gardner (5-1), who has won five consecutive decisions, allowed seven hits, walking none and striking out seven. He has won two straight starts against the Cubs.

Rod Beck pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his league-leading 14th save.

Shawon Dunston went 3-for-4 for Chicago, which failed in its bid to win three straight games for a sixth time this season.

In Cincinnati, Jocy Hamilton pitched five effective

innings in his return from the disabled list and was helped by homers from Craig Shipley and Tony Gwynn as the San Diego Padres defeated the Cincinnati Reds 6-2 in a battle of last-place teams.

Hamilton (2-1), who had not pitched since April 23rd due to right shoulder tendinitis and was activated prior to the game, allowed one run and scattered five hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

Gwynn was 3-for-4 with a double to raise his average to .368.

In Montreal, Hideo Nomo allowed three runs over 8 1/3 innings and Wilton Guerrero had three hits, including a two-run triple that sparked a four-run third inning, as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Montreal Expos 8-3.

Nomo (5-2) gave up six hits, walked four and recorded a season-high 11 strikeouts in winning his third straight game.

Doug Strange had two hits and two RBI for Montreal, which had won its last six home games.

In New York, Bobby Jones became the first seven-game winner in the national league and Carlos Baerga broke out of a slump with a two-run single as the New York Mets stopped the Colorado Rockies 3-1.

John Franco pitched into and out of a jam in the ninth for his 12th save in 13 opportunities, lowering his era to 0.46.

Baerga began the four-game series with just two RBI in 113 at-bats. But he drove in the only run in Friday's 2-1 loss and added three hits today to lift his

average to .277.

"Carlos coming around is no surprise to anyone in this locker room. Every player goes through slumps in certain parts of the season," said the Mets' Todd Hundley.

In Philadelphia, Curt Schilling allowed three hits over eight innings and tied a season high with 11 strikeouts and Scott Rolen added a homer and three RBI as the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Houston Astros 4-2.

"I think (Schilling) is the best evidence in our league of why a good fastball well placed is the toughest pitch in the game," Astros manager Larry Dierker said.

Philadelphia snapped a 2-2 tie with a pair of runs in the seventh, when Mickey Morandini hit a sacrifice fly to left field with the bases loaded. A wild pitch and another sacrifice fly scored another run for the Phillies.

In Pittsburgh, Pat Rapp scattered three hits over six scoreless innings and hit his first career home run to lead the Florida Marlins to their season-high sixth straight win, 11-1 over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Mark Hutton, Felix Heredia and Jay Powell each worked an inning of relief for Florida, which has won eight of its last nine overall and four straight on the road.

Pittsburgh has lost five of its last seven games.



Cyclists pass over a canal bridge during the first stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race which started from Venice. The 80th Giro will take the riders through a course 3,892 kms long from May 17-June 8. Italian Mario Cipollini won the race leader's pink jersey after winning the first stage in a sprint finish (Reuters photo)

Betis held in thrilling Seville derby game

SEVILLE (R) — Real Betis saw their chances of taking Spain's second European Cup place next season practically disappear on Saturday after they drew an extraordinary Seville derby game with Sevilla 3-3.

Betis let their arch-rivals score twice to equalise in the last five minutes, and then hit the post from a free-kick which appeared to cross the line. The referee blew the final whistle immediately afterwards, and

had to be protected from enraged fans by police as he left the pitch.

The result leaves Betis level on points with Deportivo Coruna but four points adrift of Barcelona, who play Celta Vigo Monday.

But the draw is unlikely to save Sevilla from relegation to the Second Division for the first time in 25 years.

The game opened with a freak goal from Robert Jarni, before Robert Prosinecki equalised from

the penalty spot. Jarni made it 2-1 just after the break.

Betis' Juan Canas seemed to seal the game in the 83rd minute, but Sevilla hit back with last-gasp goals from Salva Ballesta and Jesus Galvan before Jarni's free-kick was deflected against the post and pushed away by Sevilla keeper Juan Carlos Unzué.

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Houston win Western Conference semis

Mary Joe Fernandez blows Pierce away

HOUSTON (R) — The Houston Rockets rode their All-Star trio of Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler into the Western Conference finals with a 96-91 game seven win over the Seattle SuperSonics on Saturday.

Olajuwon, Barkley and Drexler scored all but six of Houston's points in the second half, when the Rockets surged to a 14-point lead and held off a furious rally by the defending Conference champions down the stretch.

Drexler scored eight of his 24 points in the fourth quarter. Olajuwon added 22 and 13 rebounds and Barkley — who guaranteed a win after two straight Houston losses — contributed 20 and 14.

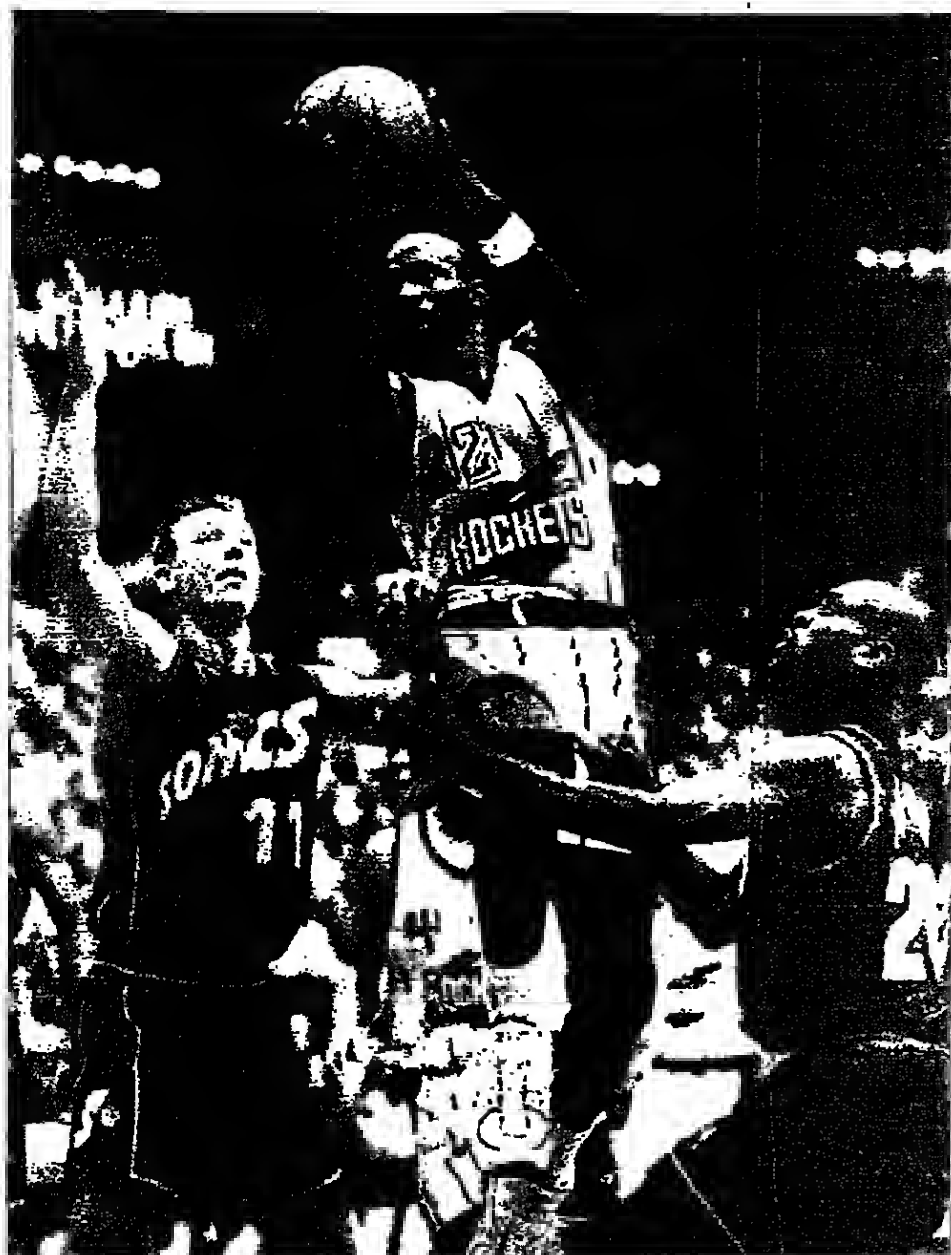
The Rockets took control by holding the SuperSonics without a point for nearly six minutes of the second half.

Matt Maloney scored 15 points for the Rockets, who will face the Utah Jazz in the conference finals beginning Monday. Houston defeated Seattle for the first time in six playoff series.

"It was a great team effort," Barkley said. "They have a terrific team. Everyone wanted to say bad things about us, but they were terrific to come back from three games to one. If you can't win a game seven at Houston it would mean they are just better than you."

Gary Payton scored 27 points and Shawn Kemp had 21 and 10 boards for the Sonics, who lost an elimination game for the first time in five tries. Seattle was trying to become the sixth team in playoff history to win a series after trailing 3-1.

"We got too far back and couldn't catch them," said Seattle center Shawn Kemp. "I went cold in the second half. I still think we are better, but give them credit. We could have been



Houston Rockets Clyde Drexler (C) flies past Seattle SuperSonics Detlef Schrempf (L) and Gary Payton during the Rockets 96-91 victory over the Sonics. Drexler scored 24 points as the Rockets advance to the Western Conference Finals against the Utah Jazz (Reuters photo)

en Chicago if we got back to the finals."

Chicago beat Seattle in the NBA finals last June.

The Sonics had just one basket in the first eight minutes of the final period and appeared dead after Olajuwon's follow dunk with 3:52 remaining gave the Rockets an 88-74 lead.

But Seattle went to a trap and made a final charge. Two baskets by Hersey Hawkins around a steal cut

the deficit to 10 points and Olajuwon missed two free throws with 3:05 to play. Detlef Schrempf made a three-pointer and Hawkins had a steal and layup, pulling the Sonics within 88-83 with 2:40 left.

Drexler split two foul shots and Kemp was fouled as he scored on a drive. His free throw made it 89-86 with 1:33 remaining, but Maloney buried a three-

pointer — his only points of the second half — 16 seconds later.

Seattle kept coming, as two free throws by Payton and an inside basket by Schrempf cut it to 92-90 with 21 seconds left. Again, Drexler missed one of two foul shots and Terry Cummings was hit on the rebound, but he also missed once.

Hawkins grabbed Drexler's shorts with 17

seconds remaining, and Seattle got one more chance when Drexler again split the pair of free throws. But Kemp missed an off-balance three-pointer from the left corner and Schrempf lost the rebound out of bounds. A basket by Olajuwon sealed it.

Mario Elie had nine points and 11 assists for the Rockets, who shot 47 percent (37-of-79) from the field, struggling again from three-point range. Houston made 6-of-24 from behind the arc and was 17-of-75 over the final three games.

Schrempf scored 15 points and Hawkins 12 for Seattle, which shot 38 percent (31-of-81) and made 7-of-18 three-pointers.

Maloney's three-pointer gave Houston a 55-50 half-time lead and the Rockets built a six-point advantage three times in the third quarter. A three-pointer by Schrempf cut the deficit to 70-67 with 2:48 to play, but Olajuwon made a follow shot and Barkley went all the way for a layup, giving Houston a 74-67 lead into the fourth quarter.

Drexler made a three-pointer before Kemp ended the drought with a foul shot with 9:11 to play. Cummings made a 15-footer, but Olajuwon and Drexler scored around a three-pointer by Elie as the rockets opened an 84-70 lead with 6:30 to play.

The first half was tight, with six ties and eight lead changes, but neither team was tentative. Kemp and Payton had 11 points in the first quarter, giving Seattle a 31-30 lead.

Drexler and David Wingate were called for double technicals with 47 seconds left in the period. Elie and Kevin Willis each got technicals for arguing 31 seconds into the second quarter.

Kemp's jumper extended the lead to 34-30 before Houston rattled off eight straight points. The teams then traded 8-2 bursts.

BERLIN (AFP) — American Mary Joe Fernandez hailed her 6-4, 6-2 demolition of France's Mary Pierce in the German Open final here Sunday as her finest performance ever.

The 25-year-old American outclassed Pierce having trailing 4-2 in the opening set, and afterwards beamed: "That's the best victory of my career, my first win of the season. I played some great tennis, and also got that little bit of luck because Mary played well too."

In fact Pierce, seeded 12 and ranked 11 in the world rankings, lost her way after opening out that 4-2 lead in the first set.

Fernandez, the tenth seed and World No. 14, broke her opponent's serve twice in succession to wrest the set before cruising through the second.

The American moved to a 4-0 lead, capping a run of eight successive games, with an intelligent mix of shots that left Pierce's confidence in shreds.

Fernandez sealed her victory of the year with a searing return down the line.

"I was tired," said 22-year-old Pierce. "It was very hot and after starting well I couldn't get my game going. I knew it would be difficult because Mary Joe never gives up a point and today she played really well."



Chelsea goal scorers Roberto Di Matteo (L) and Eddie Newton (C) celebrate with team captain Dennis Wise after winning the FA Cup at Wembley. Chelsea beat Middlesbrough 2-0 (Reuters photo)

Hingis ready for French Open

TRUEBBACH, Switzerland (AFP) — Swiss World No. 1 Martina Hingis has recovered from her knee injury and will be ready to participate in the French Open which starts on May 26, reports in the Swiss press said on Sunday.

"I want to at least reach the semi-finals in Paris," the 19-year-old said. The Sunday newspaper Sonntagsblick.

Three weeks after falling from a horse and injuring knee ligaments, Hingis said she "hadn't lost confidence in herself."

"I've improved my technique," she said, although adding that she was having difficulty with her double-handed backhand.

Rios and Corretja in Italian Open final

ROME (R) — Marcelo Rios of Chile and Spain's Alex Corretja will meet in the final of a major clay court event for the second time in less than a month after both won their semifinal matches at the Italian Open Saturday.

Number seven seed Rios, who defeated Corretja in straight sets at the Monte Carlo open last month, recovered from the loss of the second set to defeat Spain's Alberto Berasategui 6-1 in the third.

Corretja, seeded 10th, proved too consistent for an erratic Goran Ivanisevic, winning 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (7-4) to reach his fourth clay court final of the season in just over two hours. The sixth-seeded Croat dropped his serve when serving for the first set, missed a set point in the second at 5-4 on the Corretja serve and let slip a lead in the final tie-break.

"It's going to be a tough match," said Rios, who leads Corretja 3-2 in career matches. "I've played Corretja a good many times. We're going to have big rallies from the baseline."

Corretja has already played three finals on clay this season, winning in Estoril against compatriot Francisco Clavet, but losing in Monte Carlo to Rios and in Munich to Australian Mark Philippoussis.

Whatever the result in the best of five sets match on Sunday, Corretja's record on clay this season will take him into the world's top 10 for the first time in his career — and bring recognition in his home town of Barcelona.

"In Spain, I'm not that good because the people just know the top 10 so you have to do it better every week," he said, "even in Barcelona nobody knows me."

Rios, bidding to become the first Chilean to win in

Rome since 1959, broke the unseeded Berasategui in the fourth game and held serve to take the set 6-3 with an ace. But the 1994 French Open finalist, who beat Rios in the quarter-finals at Hamburg last week and eliminated French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov here, responded in kind, breaking in the fourth game and levelling the match 6-3 in the second set.

The Spaniard looked like

taking charge when he broke Rios in the first game of the final set, but the Chilean, a favourite with the Foro Italico crowd, proceeded to break his opponent three successive times and reel off the next six games for the match. Ivanisevic, bidding for his second Rome final since defeat to American Jim Courier in 1993, broke Corretja in the very first game of the match and held serve

to 5-4. But having shell-shocked Corretja with serves of over 200 kmh, Ivanisevic failed to get a single first serve in, and a relieved Corretja levelled at 5-5.

Suddenly, the air of calm that has filled Ivanisevic's game since returning here from a five week absence with a fractured finger was broken. In the tiebreak, the Croat inexplicably chose to stay back and rally with a man whose groundstrokes are his strength, and he finally lost the set with two unforced errors. Ivanisevic's inner turmoil was betrayed at the start of the second by an extraordinary shot at 15-40, on Corretja's serve, with two breakpoints in his favour.

With the court at his mercy, the Croatian leapt into the air to play a routine backhand and blasted the ball out of the Foro Italico. "I make jump which was pretty stupid wanting to look good, but instead I look bad," said Ivanisevic.

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NORTH
♠ J 5 3
♥ A 3
♦ A 8 5 2
♣ A 7 5 3

WEST
♠ K Q 10
♥ 10
♦ K J 10 7 8
♣ 10 6 2

EAST
♠ 9 8 4
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ Q 4 9
♣ J 8 4

SOUTH
♠ 7 8 2
♥ K Q 8 7 5
♦ 9
♣ K Q 9

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♠ Pass 1♥ 1♠
Pass Pass 2♥ Pass
4♣

Opening lead: King of ♠.

As the year went along, players at the club sensed that trumps were breaking badly more often than usual, and Trump Coup Tommy's wallet was getting fatter. Our readers will recall that Tommy, a humble player at best, became a veritable computer when trumps were stacked against him.

Note West's overall on a four-card suit. While that might appear

dangerous, it was not. West probably had the best hand at the table and his long suit had been preempted by the opening bidder. Certainly, West's four-card suit was a lot stronger holding than many five-carders we have seen. North passed to show a minimum, but then judged correctly that three aces were sufficient support for an invitational hand, and merited a raise to game.

West cashed three rounds of spades before shifting to a club. Tommy wasted little time on the play. The club trick was taken in hand, the diamond ace was cashed and a diamond was ruffed. The king and ace of hearts revealed the 4-1 split, and Tommy smiled contentedly. Another diamond was ruffed to reduce Tommy's trump length to that of East's, and just one slice of luck was now needed.

After cashing the king of clubs, declarer led a club to the ace. When East had to follow to both these tricks, all was well. Dummy was left with two minor-suit cards, and declarer held Q 9 of trumps poised over East's J 6. A card was led from the table and, whether East ruffed high or low, there was no trump trick for the defense. Making four-odd.

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33 million Iranians urged to vote in presidential election

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 33 million people have the right to vote in Iran's presidential election Friday and the authorities have called for a massive turnout to show support for the Islamic republic.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani warned against voter apathy, saying participation was a "national and Islamic duty."

"There should be no excuses. Anyone interested in Iran, Islam or the revolution should somehow be present," he said in a speech before the weekly Muslim Friday prayers at Tehran University.

"Even those who do not like us (the Islamic regime) should come forward in the interest of their country," said the president, who is not allowed to run after serving the maximum of two consecutive four-year terms allowed under the constitution.

Four candidates, all of them loyal to the Islamic republic, have been allowed to run in the May 23 polls, and 234 other hopefuls were disqualified because they did not meet the regime's ideological

and technical criteria. Other Iranian officials and religious leaders have linked participation to support for the Islamic republic and called for a big turnout to "frustrate the enemy."

"Massive participation will once again show our support for Islam and defiance to the world's oppressive powers," is a message repeatedly aired on the state radio and television in the past days.

"Each of our votes will be a blow to the United States and other enemies of Islam," is another statement often heard from people interviewed in the streets.

More than half of Iran's 64 million population, aged 15 and over and sane, are allowed to vote. Campaigning officially started last Saturday and is to continue until 24 hours before the election.

But the two main candidates, Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri and former Culture Minister Mohammad Khatami, both 53 years old, have been engaged in a vicious competition in the past two months.

It is the most interesting presidential election since the 1979 Islamic revolution as Mr. Nuri, the establishment contender, is fiercely challenged by an underdog in a campaign of genuine issues rather than mere slogans.

Mr. Khatami, forced to resign as culture minister in 1992 under pressure from conservatives and hardliners, has made personal freedom, democracy and the rule of law the main themes of his platform.

But he faces a daunting task of beating Mr. Nuri, who has an impeccable revolutionary record and is close to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He is the third most powerful politician after Mr. Khamenei and Mr. Rafsanjani.

Around 190 MPs in the 270-seat parliament have endorsed the speaker "because of his obedience to (Ayatollah) Khamenei, his personality and his superior administrative abilities." The speaker is also backed by senior clerics in the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad, who have come under criticism for taking sides in the fac-

tional rivalry. Mr. Khatami is on the other hand favoured by Muslim intellectuals and many university students as well as many in the more liberal middle class, who traditionally do not vote but see in Mr. Khatami an opportunity for more personal freedom.

Mr. Khatami appears to have solidified his position in recent days and his popularity appears to be growing after several television appearances and speeches around the country.

Walls, electricity posts and shop windows are covered with posters of the front-runners as the two sides race to paste up more pictures of their own candidate.

The authorities and the candidates' campaign headquarters have denounced a practice by "certain groups" of tearing the pictures off the walls at night.

In several sections of the capital, provocative graffiti is scribbled on the walls against the regime, some urging people not to vote and others demanding the separation of state and religion.

Journalists, opposition parties in uproar...

(Continued from page 1)

receive the tougher penalty.

Many of the taboos listed in the Press and Publications Law also appear in the penal code, and journalists fear that the terms of the law leave it open to liberal interpretation, giving the government leeway to apply the penal code in the press law's stead.

The law is largely understood to target the weekly tabloids, which have long raised the ire of the government and some segments of society by their sensational and often misleading reporting.

The amendments demand that weekly newspapers raise their capital from JD15,000 to JD300,00 and that dailies raise theirs from JD50,000 to JD600,000; both must adjust their financial situation within three months.

While the multi-million dinar press foundations of Al Ra'i, Al Dustour, Al Aswak and Al Arab Al Yawm can easily accommodate this requirement, journalists say that weeklies, with the exception of one, cannot withstand such a steep increase.

Justifying the capital requirements, Dr. Mutawi said, "We heard that some papers have not paid their staffs for months."

"Whoever wants to publish a paper, should base his project on a solid financial foundation which requires a sufficient capital and the capability to pay salaries."

It also requires that an editor of any paper have at least ten years experience before assuming his or her post.

"If we view the different articles and paragraphs, we cannot but find that the weekly tabloids will be most adversely affected (by the changes)," said Raja Talab, editor in chief of Shihan, the only one of the weeklies expected to be able to fulfil the requirement.

"The qualifications of the editor in chief and the unusually high capital requirement, I believe, means that many will be forced to close their offices because they cannot meet this requirement within the three month period."

Editors of 12 weeklies further supported the JPA initiative in a press conference hosted yesterday at

the Engineer's Association, and issued a strong rejection of the revised law, appealing to Parliament, now in recess, to reject the law and work for its cancellation.

Addressing an audience of weekly and daily staff reporters and editors, Nidal Mansour, chief editor of Al Hadath (The Event) said that the Jordanian Weekly Press Committee was prepared to file a case at the Higher Court of Justice if the government does not act constitutionally on the issue.

A strongly worded statement issued by the Committee said that the amendments were a violation of journalists' constitutional and acquired rights and were a prelude to a series of other "interim martial laws at a time when Jordan is at the threshold of an important juncture in history."

It criticised the interim law for "closing the doors of national debate on critical issues."

During the press conference Lower House opposition deputies Hamzeh Mansour (Islamic Action Front spokesman) and Nazih Amarin (independent) expressed the opposition deputies' solidarity with the press.

"I see a clear violation of the constitution," said Mr. Amarin. "The government should have addressed the parliament because it's a very important law. We are expressing our solidarity with the journalists."

"The IAF feels the danger of what this law represents," said Mr. Mansour. "We have approached the speaker of the house and the other opposition parties, and we are calling everyone."

"We did not expect the government to turn its back on the people and the Parliament," he added. "The government has sworn to abide by the Constitution, yet it surprised us with three temporary laws."

Staff at both dailies and weeklies defended JPA President Seif Sherif's decision to remain as the sole member of the JPA council and said that they were expecting him to appeal to the government.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Sherif said that he was disappointed with the council's decision to resign and was hopeful that the majority would retract their deci-

sion.

"I am out with these amendments in any way," he said. "But I believe in dialogue and solving the problem. This way, we can ask the government for a special parliamentary session. The JPA council was elected to solve problems."

Mr. Sherif said that he was pursuing contacts with the government to find a solution, but senior editors and journalists were not optimistic about his efforts.

"The government has taken its decision," said a senior editor at an Arabic daily who didn't want to be named. "If they wanted to coordinate with us or the Parliament, they would have done it from the beginning and we wouldn't have reached this point."

Although a handful of journalists have suggested a general strike, that option is unfeasible, said a senior journalist.

More than one-third of the press corps works for Jordan News Agency, Petra, so the strike could never be comprehensive. Additionally, there are no provisions for a strike in the JPA's by-laws since it is classified as a professional association rather than a labour union.

This leaves journalists with two options. Since the amendments were passed as a temporary law, they must be ratified by parliament, either during an extraordinary session or the next session.

Parliament will not sit for a regular session until after the next parliamentary elections in November. Therefore, the Jordanian Weekly Press Committee, the IAF and other opposition deputies and the Muslim Brotherhood have stated that they will lobby for an extraordinary session, which can only be called at the request of an absolute majority of Lower House deputies.

A more feasible option, according to journalist and lawyer Mohammad Sbeih, a columnist at Al Arab Al Yawm, is to take the matter to the Higher Court of Justice and challenge the constitutionality of the government's action.

Mr. Sherif said that filing a case at the Higher Court was a "probable" option, barring efforts at further dialogue with the government.

Egypt court acquits actors on sexual scenes

CAIRO (AP) — An appeals court Sunday overturned prison sentences handed to a producer and two Egyptian actors for sexually explicit scenes in a popular movie.

A lower court had sentenced actress Maail Zayed and actor Mamdouh Wafi in March to one year in prison at hard labour and a fine of 500 Egyptian pounds (\$147) for scenes deemed offensive in the movie "Abu Al Dahab," or "Father of the Gold." The court, however, suspended the sentences.

The producer, Samir Abdul Aziz, was given three months in prison and a 100 pound (\$30) fine, which were also suspended.

But in Sunday's ruling, the court said that the law was not applicable in the first place. In any event, it ruled, the offence itself was not punishable by prison.

The court, however, upheld the 100 pound (\$30) fine on Mr. Abdul Aziz for violating censorship laws. The three were taken to court after the Censorship Department claimed that sex scenes were left in the movie, despite an order by the government censor that they be cut.

Egypt has a conservative Muslim society, and public discussion of sex is taboo. "Abu Al Dahab" tells the story of a drug dealer whose divorced sister has a relationship with his top drug runner. There were four scenes in the film of the two engaged in sex.



CLAMPING DOWN ON JORDAN'S PRESS: The new Press and Publications Law that was issued by the government Friday is expected to result in the closing down of many of Jordan's weeklies and limit freedom of expression the Kingdom enjoyed over the past few years — read story on page one (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

Turkish minister resigns day after censure motion

IZMIR (AP) — Another cabinet minister resigned in protest Saturday amid continued opposition to the Islamist-led government.

The resignation of Islay Saygin, the minister in charge of women affairs, came one day after opposition parties filed a censure motion in parliament blaming the government for undermining Turkey's secular traditions and Western reforms.

"Unfortunately this government has caused the democratic and secular laws of the republic to become controversial," the Anatolia news agency quoted Ms. Saygin as saying in this Aegean port city.

Ms. Saygin was the third

cabinet minister, from the junior coalition partner True Path Party, resigning in protest of the ruling Welfare Party's Islamisation efforts.

The resignations of two other ministers last month were the driving force behind Friday's censure motion against the government.

Parliament will debate the motion, which amounts to a confidence vote, in two weeks. The government will collapse if 276 deputies in the 550-member parliament support the censure motion. The Welfare Party and pro-Western True Path joined forces in a coalition last July. They have a total of 281 seats in parliament.

But several True Path

deputies were expected to back the motion, according to newspapers. The rift between the military and the Welfare Party also increases the political tension.

The military, alarmed by Welfare's policies, ordered the government to curb its Islamisation attempts and take measures against radical Islamist groups. But the government so far has resisted most of the orders. There have been rumours of intervention by the military, which considers itself the guarantor of Turkey's constitutionally-enshrined secularism and which has staged coups in the past when it deemed secularism threatened.

Israel, Turkey to jointly produce 'Popeye' missile

HAIFA (AFP) — Israel and Turkey have agreed to jointly produce a sophisticated air-to-ground missile in a deal worth around \$100 million, officials said Sunday.

The Popeye II missile would be a smaller and more advanced version of Israel's existing Popeye I missile and should be ready for delivery in about three years, said Noah Shahar, a spokesman for the Israeli state defense contractor Rafael.

The new missile is expected to have a range of about 150 kilometres.

Turkey has already purchased 50 Popeye I missiles to equip a fleet of F-4 fighter-

er-jets currently being upgraded by Israel aircraft industries, Rafael's mother company.

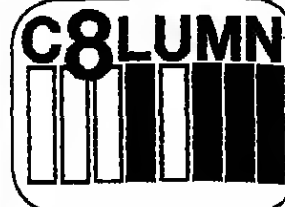
"The first stage of the project was to sell the Turks the Popeye I for their F-4s which are being upgraded," Mr. Shahar told AFP. "There is now an understanding with two Turkish firms to continue the production of the Popeye II jointly."

News of the deal came two weeks after Turkish Defence Minister Turhan Tayan and the deputy chief of Turkey's army, General Cevik Bir, made separate visits to Israel in the latest sign of growing military cooperation between the

two states. During Gen. Bir's visit, Israel, Turkey and the United States agreed to organise joint naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean later this year.

Turkey's Islamist prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, who has tried to put the brakes on military ties with Israel since coming to power last year, announced last week that the joint navy manoeuvres had been indefinitely postponed.

But he was quickly overruled by the staunchly secular military and defence establishment in Turkey.



U.S. sailors freshen up French shelter for homeless

MARSEILLES (AFP) — Sailors from a U.S. aircraft carrier took paint brushes in hand this weekend to freshen up a shelter for homeless people in this French Mediterranean seaport, officials said. The 28 men and two women from the USS John F. Kennedy used the same grey metallic paint that covers their naval ship to redo the Forbin shelter, run by the Brothers of St. John of God. In operation for more than 100 years, the shelter can accommodate up to 250 people a night. The USS John F. Kennedy has been in Marseilles on a port call since Thursday. It casts off Tuesday to take part in multi-national air and sea exercises in the Mediterranean Sea with its battle group of 20 ships.

Argentine radio announcer sets Guinness record

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Radio announcer Juan "Tito" Otero talked his way into the Guinness Book of World Records by chatting for 144 hours and 20 minutes on-air, the news agency Noticias Argentinas reported. Otero's feat was the centrepiece of a food drive for the poor at a radio station in the city of Inzaingo, some 1,000 kilometres north-east of Buenos Aires. Otero began his talkfest May 11 and completed his feat a week later Saturday, resting only four hours every day as the Guinness rules allow, the news agency reported. The town's new celebrity went to a hospital for a general checkup after ending his marathon session. He is scheduled to be back at the radio station for his regular two-hour weekly show Monday.

Stallone weds long-time girlfriend in London hotel

LONDON (AFP) — Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone wedded long-time girlfriend Jennifer Flavin in a ceremony on the roof terrace of London's Dorchester Hotel Saturday. British press said Sunday. Jennifer, 28, who is pregnant with the couple's second child, was reported to have worn a 20,000 pound (\$32,000) white satin Armani dress for the half-hour civil ceremony. The star of Rambo and Rocky then went with his new wife to Blenheim Palace, Winston Churchill's birthplace near Oxford, where the marriage was to be blessed in chapel and a reception was given at a cost of 150,000 pounds (\$240,000).

Cannes Churchmen pick Canadian film

CANNES (AFP) — The ecumenical jury at the Cannes film festival Sunday awarded its prize to "The Sweet Hereafter" by Canadian director Atom Egoyan, following in the footsteps of the international critics who Saturday honoured the same film. The Churchmen's citation said Egoyan "explores the vulnerability and mystery of a community" and "depicts the complexity of life and hearts" in his film, which is about the bereavement of a small Canadian community after the local school bus plunges into a river,